

## OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-ECA\_D\_6.1

**Governments and civil society in ECA are able to monitor, report and advocate on progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Istanbul Convention, WPS resolutions and other international frameworks to advance GEWE.**

The outcome was not fully achieved, however significant progress was made and grounded on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, +25 review results in 2019–2020. In 2021, a solid increase in political will and commitment for gender equality and women's empowerment was observed both at the regional and country levels ensured with the help of the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) conducted in 2021 (Mexico, 27–31 March and France, 30 June – 2 July) with the support of UN Women. Key results achieved: nine out of 18 programme countries, which made their commitments for five Action Coalitions, are represented in Generation Equality leadership and commitment making structures. Also, 57 applications were submitted from civil society organizations (CSOs) as commitment makers. 176 partners (the National Gender Equality Mechanisms, parliaments, political parties, CSOs and youth representatives, gender experts, research centers and universities) contributed to preparations for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 65) – by attending three sub-regional consultations in February–March 2021. They called on securing women's activism for national and global transformative change on gender equality, setting-up a pro bono council for women's rights in the region/sub-region. The consultations were linked with the GEF/Action Coalition and provided space to reflect on challenges and achievements as well as priorities for the leadership and participation by adhering to the principle of leaving no one behind and voicing the specific sub-regional visions, experiences, and lessons. The findings of the consultations, key messages and takeaways were presented at the CSW65 ministerial round table/s by the hosting country's delegation that attended the CSW65 consultations. Regional Youth Network contributing to the GEF has grown to 300 members with an average age of 23 years. 31,936 youth engaged in the #YouthDemand campaign launched on 8 March where youth activists from Europe and Central Asia region voiced the following demands: recognition and criminalization of femicides; provision of complementary menstrual hygiene products worldwide to achieve a world free of menstrual poverty; inclusion of mental health services in the national health insurance policies; acceleration of investments and introduction of comprehensive sexuality education in formal education; improve urban planning for women and girls' safety (the Campaign report is here). The youth demands were presented at the GEF in Mexico on 29–31 March 2021, to make the voices of young people heard by the decision-makers attending the Forum. In May–December, eight inspiring #YouthAct initiatives that fostered change, mobilized youth locally, and initiated transformation in their communities, were designed, led and implemented by youth activists (#YouthAct project pitches by the young creators – here). The youth engagement strategy for 2022–2026 was developed by activists and is expected to be implemented with resources to be mobilized. #FeministsWantSystemChange campaign co-led by ECARO and CSOs, resulted in 1.81 million total impressions and 4.32K mentions during the period of 20 September 2020 – 20 September 2021. A metrics report on the outreach of the campaign is available here. More information at ECARO Generation Equality landing page. Generations Talk Gender podcast series with four episodes connected gender equality activists from across generations and all walks of life. Activists in the series delve into issues old and new, with an eye on persuasive activism and high-impact actions leading all the way to gender equality. The podcast series is on Spotify and other channels. A regional collection of 28 fairy tales – Awake Not Sleeping: Reimagining Fairy Tales for a New Generation was launched to inspire children to succeed in untraditional

roles, as portrayed by real and fictional role models from the region. More than 4,600 people participated in the launch event. In one week leading up to the event, the #AwakeNotSleeping campaign received close to half a million impressions on social media. ECA RO will continue its feminist storytelling cross-generational work to light the rich cultural heritage from countries across the region. UN Women contributed to this by implementation of the regional Roadmap to the GEF, which suggested key activities, partnerships, and space for inclusive participatory engagement. Key partners engaged into the implementation: national women mechanisms, CSOs and youth activists; UN and regional organizations. The strategy and theory of change is still applicable.

#### OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-ECA\_D\_3.1

### **The implementation of the Istanbul Convention and CEDAW is promoted in Turkey and Western Balkan countries**

The outcome was partially achieved during the reporting period. The Government of Turkey withdrew from the Istanbul Convention on 1 July 2021. The decision was deeply regretted by the UN Committee on CEDAW, the Council of Europe, and the European Union, among others. On the contrary to this development, tangible progress can be reported as the Western Balkan countries took important steps towards the implementation of the Convention within inter alia the framework of the EC funded programme "Implementing norms, changing minds." An enabling normative framework was further developed to bolster the effective implementation of the IC and the CEDAW for preventing and responding to violence thanks to the financial and technical support provided to civil society organisations, the advocacy and technical support provided to executive and legislative bodies. For example, in Albania, a new National Gender Equality Strategy (NSGE 2021-2030) was approved in July 2021, including a section on response to emergencies that encompass the work with perpetrators and allocates 50 percent of the funding to violence against women and girls (VAWG). Furthermore, the 2011 Decision of the Council of Ministers (DCM) on the functioning of coordinated referral mechanisms (CRM) was revised in June 2021 to reflect better the evolving context, challenges, and needs of women and girls and assigns more defined roles and responsibilities to its members. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) adopted the new Law on Protection from Domestic Violence on 27 July 2021. Additionally, the state Action Plan on Roma Inclusion 2021-2025 was revised to reflect the priorities of the Roma Women's Platform for prevention of violence against Roma Women. The Criminal Code was amended in Montenegro to introduce firmer sentences for child molesters and pedophiles and a pedophile registry. The government adopted the new National Strategy for Gender Equality 2021-2025 and its Action Plan in September 2021. In Serbia, the government adopted the National Strategy for Combating Gender-Based Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (2021-2025), aligned with the IC and the CEDAW (22 April 2021), and the Law on Amendments to the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination (24 May 2021). The latest included a definition of indirect discrimination, the addition of sex characteristics, sexual harassment, segregation, and residential segregation as forms of discrimination, and an enhanced role for the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality. Finally, The Law on Gender Equality (24 May 2021) introduced the national gender machinery at the deputy prime minister's level and established the alimony fund. Moreover, throughout the Western Balkans and Türkiye, over 300 services providers from the police, social protection, and the justice sectors gained better knowledge on risk assessment in domestic violence cases. For instance, in Albania, there was a 98.2 percent increase in the number of risk assessment forms filled out by police officers; a nine percent increase in the number of preliminary emergency protection orders issued by the police; a 14 percent increase in the number of special medical reports issued by medical staff to survivors of violence (eight medical reports filled out) and a 12 percent increase in the number of pupils referred to the Child Protection Unit as suspected victims of violence. All these efforts led to a deeper understanding and awareness of violence and increased preventive and protective measures for women and girls at country level. More institutions and communities are shifting their perceptions towards gender equality and violence against women in the region through targeted initiatives using communications and social marketing tools

that address VAW's specific behaviours. As a result of the regional campaign "Embracing positive masculinities to promote gender equality and end violence against women – Show that you are in the first league" the number of men who believed that men should have the final say in the household dropped by ten percent (59 percent); and number of men who strongly disagreed that real men are ready to engage in physical violence if that was the only solution increased by 20 percent. Based on the progress made to date, the original strategy and theory of change for this outcome is still applicable.

#### OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-ECA\_D\_3.2

### **Societal perceptions around gender stereotypes and patriarchal norms which limit women's rights are shifted**

The outcome was not achieved in 2021. Harmful gender norms and stereotypes are widely prevalent in the countries covered by the EU4Gender Equality "Together against gender stereotypes and gender-based violence" (<https://eca.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/eu-4-gender-equality>) project funded by the European Union, implemented jointly by UN Women and UNFPA during 2021. However, some good progress was made towards increasing awareness of the target audiences in the project countries about gender equality and the benefits of a life free from gender stereotypes. 14 civil society organizations from six programme countries implemented small grant projects that suggested innovative solutions on shifting harmful gender norms and societal perceptions on the roles of women and men in different public spheres, including one in Armenia, one in Azerbaijan, one in Belarus, three in Moldova, four in Ukraine and four in Georgia. As a result of the implemented small grants project, around 3,000,000 persons in six countries gained an increased understanding of gender equality and gender stereotypes, and around 500 persons are now acting as local advocates to promote gender equality and non-discrimination. The small grant projects presented a variety of interventions, that applied different strategies and approaches to address harmful gender norms and stereotypes. To name a few – production of a short film about challenges of parenthood, implementing TikTok campaign and addressing gender-based discrimination in the universities in Ukraine, social theatre performances, awareness raising about issues faced by women with disabilities and career orientation for youth in Moldova, analysis of gender stereotypes in school textbooks, work with police and creative awareness raising campaign in Georgia, promotion of responsible fatherhood in Azerbaijan, hackathon to address gender-biased sex selection in Armenia and fighting stigma against women released from detention in Belarus. 12 more civil society organizations have been selected during 2021 and will receive grants in 2022 to implement new or continue implementation of the launched initiatives to address and shift harmful social norms and gender stereotypes in the six countries of the Eastern Partnership. UN Women supported this by designing and implementing annual regional calls for proposals for civil society organizations and NGOs from the Eastern Partnership countries. More than 10 million people in the six countries have been reached out to through a series of innovative communications campaigns on social media with messages of equality, elimination of harmful gender stereotypes in all public spheres, prevention of the violence against women and girls, and increasing men's involvement in fatherhood. Some of the most prominent ones include the "It Can Be Done Differently – Without Stereotypes" online and offline campaign in Moldova that reached up to three million people. Crosswalks, billboards, videos, and an outdoor concert by young people shared messages of equality and explained that professions and household chores have no gender. The campaign will be continued under the project in 2022. In Ukraine, around six million young people were reached by "NoMoreGringe" TikTok campaign whereas in Georgia the number of people reached recorded more than 100,000 through the "Cutting Through Gender Stereotypes" campaign. The posters and videos with well-known Georgian actors reflected upon most common stereotypes that limit women's and men's opportunities in everyday life. Even though change in attitudes and perceptions is very difficult to achieve and measure over the course of three years, based on the progress made to date, the original strategy and the theory of change for this outcome is largely still applicable.

### **Men are increasingly involved in the care taking of their children and engaged in fathers programmes**

The outcome was partially achieved in 2021 with significant progress demonstrated. Men in the Eastern Partnership countries now have access to dynamic father-friendly spaces to practice skills, become more involved parents, build and maintain harmonious violence-free relationships. In 2021, 1,895 men already benefited from 19 "Fathers' Schools" established in Armenia (2), Azerbaijan (3), Belarus (1), Georgia (2), Moldova (9) and Ukraine (2). The project EU 4 Gender Equality "Together against gender stereotypes and gender-based violence", funded by the European Union, implemented jointly by UN Women and UNFPA, contributed to this by producing four knowledge products that were further adapted and applied at the country level: Manual on Papa School, Resource and Training Packages on "Engaging Men during Pregnancy and Childbirth" and Compendium on Fatherhood Programmes. Based on the produced knowledge, around 30 partners from project countries and UNFPA country offices increased knowledge and understanding of the Fatherhood Programming and Engaging Men in Prenatal Care through a webinar facilitated by Promundo in February 2021. Around 2,400,000 people were reached by communications about the importance of men's caretaking responsibilities in six project countries. Highlights of the project's fatherhood interventions are summarized in the regional article. Around 306 health professionals and family center specialists in six programme countries have received knowledge and skills on engaging men during pregnancy and childbirth and on promoting active fatherhood during the capacity building workshops delivered by UNFPA based on the knowledge products produced by the regional project component and mentioned above. Based on the progress made to date, the original strategy and theory of change for this outcome remain applicable. If, as expected the strategy is successful, more men will be engaged during pregnancy and childbirth as well as will become engaged fathers in six project countries.

### **Social workers (mediators) and CSOs have increased knowledge and tools to conduct evidence-based violence prevention programmes for perpetrators of domestic violence, and are using new skills**

The outcome was partially achieved as the initial activities started in November 2021. However, there is some progress made. Partnership with the European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of domestic violence (WWP) has been established to produce contextualized regional guidance on working with perpetrators and early prevention based on evidence-based good practices from European countries. The methodology for the analytical exercise and the outline of the regional guidance have been developed and cleared by the established Peer Review Group. The regional guidance will be further used by the country offices to revise existing or develop new programmes for perpetrators of domestic violence once concluded in May 2022. In the meantime, a comprehensive assessment of the national perpetrators' response mechanism was conducted in Ukraine. The assessment will feed into and inform the regional guidance, since it provides deep insights and analysis of the existing perpetrators programmes in Ukraine as well as provides some recommendations with regards to which services/programmes for violence perpetrators are most feasible and cost-effective in the context of Ukraine. In Georgia, 90 behaviour correction program facilitators (30 from penitentiary institutions, 30 from probation system and 30 psychologists and social workers) have benefited from capacity building activities that covered the theoretical background of the positive masculinity work; gender transformative approaches; work with men by providing practical tools on deconstructing harmful gender constructs, improving emotional self-control, preventing violence/controlling behaviour and promoting men's caregiving. A desk review of the existing international standards and best practices of perpetrator rehabilitation programs, particularly in EU countries, was commissioned by UN Women Georgia. The desk review implies an analysis of the Georgian perpetrator

behavioral correction programme vis-à-vis the international standards and best practices. The desk-review provided extensive input for the analysis of existing legislation and policies regulating the delivery of the perpetrator rehabilitation programmes within the probation and penitential systems of Georgia. The analysis identifies gaps, challenges and needs to ensure increased access to the programmes and their smooth implementation. The analysis has been used as a basis for development of a roadmap for implementation of the perpetrator's programmes and a package of legislative amendments. The original strategy and theory of change for this outcome remain applicable. If the strategy is successful, a regional framework for development of community-based behavioural and attitude change programmes to be delivered by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will become available.

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

### **Strengthened policy and financial environment to enable gender-responsive national adaptation and effective monitoring of the SDGs**

The outcome was not fully achieved, but significant progress has been made by three countries across Europe and Central Asia region (Georgia, Albania, and Kyrgyzstan) in building gender-sensitive national statistics system and strengthening government capacity for effective monitoring of progress towards SDG implementation. Two countries (Georgia, Kyrgyzstan) developed their first ever National Gender Statistics Strategy (NGSS) for 2021-2023. These strategies are necessary prerequisites for addressing the increased demand for high-quality and timely gender statistics as well as strengthening gender statistics coordination and financing mechanisms, improving data access and dissemination, and boosting the use of data for evidence-based policy actions. In Georgia, concrete actions outlined in GEOSTAT's 2022-2023 Annual Plan address current data gaps to inform actions, advocacy and policy on gender equality and women's empowerment. In Kyrgyzstan, the NGSS outlines key actions and interventions for filling gender data gaps for effective monitoring of the Gender Equality Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2024) and informs the National Strategy for Development of Statistics for 2022-2026 scheduled to be finalized and approved by the government in 2022. In Albania, the identified priority gender data gap and needs form the basis for guiding the National Statistics Office to integrate gender-related activities into its 5-year statistical programme, the development of a comprehensive monitoring framework for the new National Strategy on Gender Equality 2021-2030, and will serve as a basis for establishing a national framework of gender-sensitive indicators to support the monitoring and reporting on SDGs and other national and international commitments. UN Women's contribution to these achievements include demand-driven and tailored technical expertise by engaging experts, sharing best practices, organizing training, and ensuring a highly inclusive and participatory approach. Regional dialogue and cooperation through existing regional mechanism contributed to well-coordinated actions on supporting governments to strengthen SDG monitoring. Thus, through participation in the Regional United Nations Coordination Group on Data and Statistics (R/CGDS), UN Women contributed to the 2021 annual report on progress towards the SDGs in the UNECE region with a data story on the "Consequences of the pandemic on gender inequalities in domestic and care work and on economic security in Eastern Europe and Central Asia". The report informed peer learning on policy solutions and discussions on best practices and challenges during the annual Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in the UNECE region (Geneva, 17-18 March 2021). In addition, UN Women took an active role in the UNECE Steering Group on Gender Statistics and co-led the conceptualization and development process for the Guidance Note on the Minimum Set of Questions to assess the impact of COVID-19 on Women and Men, which was discussed by the international community of gender statistics experts during the online meeting of the Conference of European Statisticians Group of Experts on Gender Statistics (28-29 September) and approved by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians at its meeting (13-14 October). As a result of these efforts, national statistics offices in the region were equipped with necessary tools on integration of gender into regular statistical data collection and assessing the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on women's and men's wellbeing. UN Women contributed to these results through its regional programs Making Every Woman and Girl Count: Supporting the monitoring and



implementation of the SDGs through better production and use of gender statistics by providing strategic guidance, organizing sub-regional trainings, peer learnings, and supporting advocacy at the national and regional level. There are still significant challenges that need to be addressed such as lack of political will, limited awareness, and knowledge about the critical role of gender statistics, under-prioritization in terms of human and financial resources. Greater efforts are needed to sustain achieved results and to ensure that gender statistics is one of the key national priorities to inform and develop the evidence-based programmes and policies. Based on the progress made to date, the original strategy and theory of change for this outcome remain applicable. If, as expected the strategy is successful, more national statistical systems will strengthen the governance of gender statistics and will boost the use of data and evidence to inform human centered policies.

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

### **Strengthened production of gender statistics to enable the monitoring of national policies and reporting commitments under the SDGs**

The outcome was not fully achieved in 2021. However, some progress was made as more countries across Europe and Central Asia region are prioritizing the production of gender-related statistics for critical data gaps such as unpaid domestic and care work, and violence against women to monitor the SDGs commitments and influence national policies on gender equality and women's empowerment. Two countries (Georgia, Armenia) have successfully completed the design and field work for their first ever time use surveys. In Georgia, the National Statistics Office (NSO) finalized field operations for a 12-month full scale survey and proceeded with data cleaning and analysis. The survey data release is set up for June 2022. In Armenia, the NSO has gained knowledge and experience for planning, designing and piloting the entire process of time use survey, which resulted in a comprehensive set of tools developed to be used by statisticians during the full-scale survey to be launched in 2022. UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (ECARO) contributed to this progress through leading the training sessions, offering guidance and mentorship support, which in turn resulted in strengthened institutional and individual capacity of 26 statisticians. One country (Kazakhstan) has been guided and supported to review the survey methodology on measuring the prevalence of violence against women (VAW) in line with the latest international recommendations on measuring different forms of violence, including sexual harassment. Eight representatives of the National Statistical Committee (NSC) strengthened their capacity to conduct the next round of VAW prevalence survey in 2022 with the help of a three-day workshop (3, 5, 8 February 2021) and 12 weekly meetings/coaching sessions (March - May 2021). The new round of VAW prevalence survey will provide an updated information on intimate partner violence and for the first time will feature new forms of non-partner violence such as sexual harassment. In Armenia this work entailed close cooperation with the European Union through their Eastern Partnership (EU STEP) project and in Kazakhstan the work was coordinated with UNFPA (Kazakhstan). Overall, these investments contributed to build the national capacity to collect and report data on SDG 5.4.1 – Time spent on unpaid domestic and care work and SDG 5.2.1 – Physical, sexual or psychological intimate partner violence, but most importantly to inform and advocate for designing national care policy and preventing gender-based violence. Recognizing the existing technical challenges and the need for more disaggregated data, three countries across the region (Albania, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan) also strengthened their capacity to generate new level of disaggregation by reprocessing primary data from household/individual surveys, as a result of technical advice and guidance provided by UN Women. The ongoing household/individual survey have been assessed from the perspective of relevance and data accuracy to generate new indicators and/or new levels of disaggregation for key national priority indicators on gender equality. In Georgia new indicators on employment feed into the UN Women's Country Gender Equality Profile. In Albania the renewed version of the PC-Axis database contains the most updated gender indicators. In Kyrgyzstan a new thematic publication on Gender and SDGs encompasses at least 10 of the new indicators. Investment in statistical processes to produce new indicators and new level of data disaggregation will ensure periodic and coherent production of these statistics from a

long-term perspective. ECA RO contributed to these results through its regional programs Making Every Woman and Girl Count: Supporting the monitoring and implementation of the SDGs through better production and use of gender statistics by providing strategic guidance, organizing national trainings, and coaching sessions, and supporting advocacy at the national and regional level. Based on the progress made to date, the original strategy and theory of change outcome remains applicable. If as expected the strategy is successful, then the production of gender statistics by the National Statistical Offices of target programme countries will be strengthened for timely and quality reporting on gender-related SDG, allowing decision-makers to have access to a wide range of gender data and evidence.

#### OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-ECA\_D\_1.3

### **Improved use of gender statistics by different players to inform advocacy, research, policies and programmes**

The outcome was partially achieved in the course of 2021 with some progress made by supported countries within the ECARO regional programme Making Every Woman and Girl Count: Supporting the monitoring and implementation of the SDGs through better production and use of gender statistics to open-up the gender data to the public, to improve the dissemination and communication practices and to boost the data literacy and use. More gender-related data became available and accessible through different products developed by national statistical offices across the region in close cooperation and under the technical guidance of UN Women experts on data and communication. In particular, five country knowledge products (publications, infographics) were produced by Albania, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan and one regional product ensured an increased access to gender statistics in a user-friendly format. These publications directly contributed to improved access to gender-related SDGs indicators, support further discussion on progress towards gender equality, and provide evidence for the new National Gender Equality Strategy and Country Gender Equality Brief (Albania). Gender data portal was launched in Belarus in September. This product promotes the value of "one-stop shop" for gender data and statistics in an open format as part of official statistics dissemination strategy, which will significantly increase the awareness and use of data for advocacy and informing gender-responsive policies in the country. In the long term the gender data portal aims to adopt modern tools such as SDMX that allows to standardize and modernize the data exchange process among national data producers of gender statistics. It contains 167 indicators clustered in eight thematic area and every indicator can be visualized in a chart, table, or map. In addition to sex-disaggregation most of the indicators are available by main age groups, urban/rural residence, and regions.- With the aim to increase the awareness and strengthen the capacity of policy makers and civil society representatives to use gender data, 26 representatives from sectoral ministries in Kyrgyzstan (20-22 October) and 35 representatives of CSOs in Albania (6-9 April, 15-17 September) were exposed to new knowledge and practices during tailored three national workshops organized by UN Women in partnership with national statistics offices from the respective countries. The strategic guidance and support provided by ECARO, including the peer review of training materials, facilitation of specific sessions and sharing good practices, contributed to these results. The post evaluation survey revealed the need for continuous engagement of NSOs in increasing gender data literacy through development of thematic training sessions adjusted to different level and needs of users. The outcome of these training will inform the future UN Women strategy on capacity building of users to access, analyse and transform data into actions and initiatives on gender equality and women's empowerment. A new e-learning course on Communication of Gender Data for media was developed by American University in Central Asia (AUCA) and School of Data from Kyrgyzstan in close cooperation with ECARO. This practice will be further upscaled during the Phase II of Women Count project so that students and young media professionals are equipped with basic knowledge to produce high-quality human data stories and to boost demand for new gender data in a more coherent and systematic way. Despite these important results, the use of data for informed decisions and actions is still low in most of the countries. Further investments are needed for building analytical and communication skills of NSOs and on the other hand to develop the capacity for policy makers and other stakeholders to use

and transpose data into actions. ECARO contributed to these results through its regional program Making Every Woman and Girl Count.

#### OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-ECA\_D\_1.4

##### **Public officials from Albania, BiH, Kosovo\*, and Serbia apply GRB tools learned through exchange and capacity building activities.**

The outcome was partially achieved in 2021 with significant progress demonstrated. High-level public officials from Western Balkans, participated and exchanged their experience in the regional event entitled “High-level roundtable: Budget choices in a time of pandemic: Advancing gender equality or holding it back” in May 2021. The discussions informed by four country/territory and one regional report demonstrating initial impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on budgetary decisions and gender equality enabled participants to build their capacities to take action for mitigating the adverse gender impact of pandemic. As a concrete example, in Serbia, Ministry of Culture changed their modality for subsidies to enable both women and men working in culture sector have equal access. Another achievement from Albania ensured increased budget allocated for subsidy schemes for rural women provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. In Kosovo, three special measures to assist economic recovery of women were included in the Economic Recovery Package issued by the Ministry of Finance. These achievements are based on UN Women ECA RO’s advocacy efforts together with the respective offices informed by the high-level round table. Participants of the second regional exchange of experience event on “Mainstreaming Gender in Integrated Planning System and the role of IPSIS (Integrated Planning Information System) and AFMIS (Albanian Financial Management Information System)” increased their knowledge on tracking budgetary allocations for gender equality in a transparent and accountable manner which entails an effective GRB application. The meeting report demonstrates that the event served for an analysis on identifying requisites, challenges and next steps which are necessary for application at country/territory level. UN Women contributed to this result by hosting and leading this regional event with the dedicated participation of public officials from Albania, BiH, Kosovo, North Macedonia, and Serbia. The most significant achievement of this event is building the best practice example for an effective GRB application in Albania under the umbrella of the Ministry of Finance and Prime Minister’s office with the technical support of UN Women country and regional offices. Based on the progress made to date, the original strategy and theory of change for this outcome remain applicable. • All references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

#### OUTCOME XM-DAC-41146-ECA\_D\_2.1

##### **More women affected by COVID-19 crisis play a greater role and become self-reliant through strengthened economic resilience.**

2,361 women including from marginalized and vulnerable groups increased their business and economic knowledge to access new sources of income and livelihood opportunities amid the COVID-19 pandemic. They were empowered to play a greater role and become self-reliant through strengthened economic resilience. 500 rural women developed 26 business plans to generate new income and livelihoods with sustainable small businesses, and 156 rural women commenced economic activities with new jobs created through the establishment of 23 women-owned start-ups. A further 56 rural women created joint small-scale entrepreneurial initiatives through business knowledge and greater earning opportunities. 233 women became financially literate, and were introduced to financial products and services, and were equipped with practical skills to improve their business activities and family budgets. 169 women were educated on becoming energy efficient and introduced to energy saving technologies to enable more efficient small-scale economic activities and conscious energy consumption for their businesses and households. 24 rural



women-artisans enhanced the marketing and sales prospects of their products with 43 samples of new handicraft merchandises enriched in embroidery and colour matching. 10 rural women made and sold bread to 47 women on a daily basis which in return not only generated a salary for the bread “producers” and paid utility costs of two bakeries, but also reduced the burden of domestic work/bread making by releasing “buyers” time to reinvest in livelihood activities. 550 villagers (182 women) enhanced their awareness of unpaid care work and were introduced to attitudinal and behaviour change interventions related to household and family care duties to boost rural women’s income generating activities and economic empowerment. 604 women including nationals living and working overseas affected by the outbreak enhanced their business planning skills and financial knowledge to build back their livelihoods to offset COVID-19’s economic crisis. 42 businesswomen from underrepresented groups became better equipped with knowledge and skills to start-up and expand their businesses through a UN Women supported mentorship program. 30 women-led start-ups enhanced their IT knowledge and skills through a start-up pre-acceleration program in STEM. Of these, 15 companies (owned and managed by women) generated their first sales within one month of training and 17 companies digitized their business through websites, social media platforms and e-commerce platforms. Over 200 women entrepreneurs created business growth plans and shaped business resilience ideas to COVID-19 and future shocks through the regions first Women’s Entrepreneurship Expo, a multilingual virtual platform for learning and networking. 66 women entrepreneurs from the region enhanced their business knowledge and skills to play a greater role in becoming economically self-reliant with entrepreneurial start-up or growth plans amid COVID-19 under a regional “Women Start-up Programme” pilot. UN Women provided virtual, in-person and hybrid platforms and tools to women and young girls from across the region to diversify their economic and livelihood activities, including via e-commerce platforms. At the regional level, 14 business skills development modules and toolkits increased knowledge of 90.5 per cent of participating women and young girls on better business and livelihood opportunities, during the Women’s Entrepreneurship Expo and Women Start-up Programme pilot. Products shared included six toolkits/how-to guides on: (i) Blueprint Modelling, (ii) Branding and Marketing, (iii) Entering Demand-Supply and Value Chains, (iv) Rethinking Digital Sales and E-Commerce, (v) Financial Goals and Resilience Building, and (vi) Business Pitches. A Prototype Business Plan guided women entrepreneurs to create, refine and test 16 prototype business ideas. 7 gender sensitive entrepreneurship modules enhanced women’s skills on: (i) Foundation and Introduction to Entrepreneurship; (ii) Business Idea Generation and Development; (iii) Building Business Plan; (iv) Building and Managing Micro Small and Medium Enterprise (MSMEs) Teams; (v) Marketing Skills and Dynamic Markets; (vi) Effective Pitching and Communication Skills and Advanced Strategic Planning for MSMEs; and (vii) Financial Planning for Small Businesses. Partners included Moldova’s Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure and the Organization for SME Sector Development, ‘Community Action for rural development’ (CARD) in Kyrgyzstan, Stichting SPARK (SPARK) a regional organization, the Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS) “Viitorul” in Moldova and private sector organizations contributed with training platforms and entrepreneurial development opportunities for women. A further 47 organizations partnered with UN Women for the Women’s Entrepreneurship Expo as contributors, media partners, speakers and business networks.