

CONCEPT NOTE

Beyond the Climate Crisis: Women and Girls Empowered through Budgetary Solutions

ROUNDTABLE

14th December 2023, 12:00 CET

REGISTER

Please click the link below to register for the webinar:

https://unwomen.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EkJU_ctsT-2k19dNOTstDA

CONTEXT

In the face of an escalating human-made climate emergency, the world is confronted with a pressing reality that exacerbates humanitarian crises and deepens gender inequality. Climate change, recognized as a social and intergenerational injustice, demands immediate and comprehensive action. It is imperative to acknowledge that women and girls are disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change. Therefore, there is an urgent need for them to be at the forefront of the response, actively participating in climate policy formulation and decision-making processes. By empowering women and girls, we aim to boost climate justice forward, catalyse investment, and implement targeted actions that address the unique challenges posed by climate change on women and girls.

On the other hand, **gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) is increasingly recognized as an important approach for mainstreaming gender into policies** and budgetary processes and de facto for advancing gender equality, supporting SDG1 implementation, the 2030 Agenda and other global goals as well as for contributing towards the achievement of the commitments of the Western Balkans countries under the Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in External Relations 2020–2025 (GAP III). To address and ensure the systematic involvement of women in both planning and implementation of climate action, it is crucial to monitor financial flows that simultaneously target gender and climate consideration. Practically, achieving this goal entails employing a combination of tracking and targeting methodologies on both fronts, namely Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB) and climate finance tracking.

With the support of UN Women, GRB has been introduced into the policy framework in Serbia with the aim of complete integration into the budgeting system by 2024. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, this process is still in its early stages, with different requirements and integration levels at both the state and entity levels, however, progress is underway concurrently through

¹ The 17 SDG policy areas are no poverty; zero hunger; good health and well-being; quality education; gender equality; clean water and sanitation; affordable and clean energy; decent work and economic growth; industry, innovation, and infrastructure; reduced inequalities; sustainable cities and communities; responsible consumption and production; climate action; life below water; life on land; peace, justice and strong institutions; partnerships for the goals. See <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

the implementation of programme-based budgeting. Responding to this imperative, UN Women has **undertaken a comprehensive study in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina** to further explore the opportunities for simultaneous **tracking of financial flows targeting gender and climate**. This study involves a thorough examination of policies and budget allocations in selected sectors through the dual lenses gender and climate culminating in the provision of recommendations and action plans.

UN Women Europe and Central Asia will be **hosting a roundtable to share the findings collected from the GRB and Climate Finance Study** conducted in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The focus of this event is to explore avenues for strengthening synergies in addressing gender equality and climate change while improving the tracking of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) financing. The roundtable will serve as a platform to share best practices and lessons learned, emphasizing strategies to tackle the core drivers of gender-based vulnerabilities and leveraging climate action as a catalyst of gender equality and women's empowerment.

Roundtable Participants

Development Partners, Member states, Donor Community, Governmental Institutions from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, public officials from Western Balkans, civil society organizations, gender and climate experts.

Roundtable Objectives

- **Facilitate a donor roundtable multi stakeholder dialogue** on the findings at the local level in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, under the regional UN Women programme "Transformative Financing for Gender Equality Towards More Transparent, Inclusive and Accountable Governance in the Western Balkans."
- **Exchange best practices and lessons learned** on fostering the exchange of best practices and lessons learned regarding the tracking of financial flows targeting gender and climate actions encompassing experiences at both at local and national level.

Key Discussion Topics

- **Explore strategies to amplify the consolidated impact on gender and climate** in Europe and Central Asia emphasizing the importance of positioning climate action as a significant accelerator of gender equality and empowerment.
- **Expansion beyond traditional gender-relevant sectors** Discuss and devise approaches to extend focus beyond traditional gender-relevant sectors like social protection, education, and employment. Explore inclusion strategies for sectors such as climate change, access to energy, and energy efficiency, recognizing their pivotal role in advancing gender equality and empowerment?

Language: ENGLISH. Simultaneous translation to Serbian provided.

AGENDA

Moderator: [Zoran Kapor](#), GFA Consulting Group South Eastern Europe

12:00 – 12:15

Opening remarks

Sweden Representative TBC

[Elisa Fernandez](#), Deputy Regional Director

UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia

12:15 – 12:35

Presentation of the Methodology for Gender and Climate Finance Tracking

[Azra Becirovic](#), National Expert for Public Finance, Bosnia and Herzegovina

12:35 – 12:45

COP28 Update

[Sascha Gabizon](#)

Executive Director- Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF)

12:45 – 13:20

Panel Discussion: Gender Equality as a Precondition for Climate Justice

Government Representative- Bosnia and Herzegovina-**TBC**

[Tamara Bajkuša-Spahić](#), Expert Advisor for Electric Power System Development at the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina

[Svetlana Drakul](#), City Administration of Užice, Serbia

[Jelena Ružić](#), Women's Association of Kolubara District, Serbia

Youth Representative

13:20 – 13:30

Concluding remarks

UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia