

Gender-Responsive Governance and Leadership



Why do we do what we do?

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the path towards gender equality is intricately integrated into issues related to governance, decision-making, and women's political participation. This intertwining is exemplified through implementation of strategic and gender sensitive approaches as part of the budget planning, which serves as a key instrument in advancing gender equality within the broader framework of governance and decision-making processes. However, equal participation of women and men remains one of the central issues of gender equality in BiH and, in most cases, budgets do not ensure gender-equitable distribution of resources nor do they meaningfully contribute to equal opportunities for women and men. Although a huge progress has been made in the field of collection of gender-related statistical data, there are still limitations in terms of comparing the Gender Equality Index for BiH with the European Union average, individual member states and Western Balkan countries.

Highlighted fact: The percentage of annual budget allocation to gender equality in BiH is **4.54%***. The percentage of women in elected office is **23.8%****, which is below the EU average of 26.4% and below the 40% threshold of the Law on Gender Equality in BiH.

* Unweighted average based on budgets of state and entity line ministries (2022: BiH 1.45%; FBiH 5.79%; RS 6.39%) ** 2022 General Elections



How we work?

UN Women brings **gender-responsive planning** and **budgeting**; the EU **integration process** of BiH; women's **political participation** and **leadership**; and **access to justice** and **rights** together into this portfolio to leverage their mutually reinforcing nature. Within the work on public finance reform and gender-responsive policy making and budgeting, the focus is on sustained government capacities. We support gender institutional mechanisms to increase capacities of key sectors for gender-responsive policy, and to share knowledge among the gender institutional mechanisms in the Western Balkans and the EU. UN Women also supports institutional commitments and accountability for the national and international normative standards and strengthens capacities of CSOs to advocate for accelerated institutional progress in an effective dialogue with the government.

UN Women supports Bosnia and Herzegovina to achieve gender equality, and works with governments and civil society organizations to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement international gender equality commitments.



2020 - 2023:

appx. 2,500,000 USD



Key partners

- ▶ Gender institutional mechanisms
- ▶ Statistical institutions
- ▶ Supreme audit institutions
- ▶ Central Election Commission BiH
- ▶ Parliaments and assemblies at different levels of government
- ▶ Ministry of Finance and Treasury of BiH
- ▶ Entity ministries of finance and Ministry of Finance of Canton Sarajevo
- ▶ Line ministries at all levels of government
- ▶ Cities and municipalities across BiH



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Our results

From 2020 to 2023 UN Women has been working on and supporting various initiatives under the Governance and Leadership portfolio:

- Supported governments in BiH to work on the **SDG* financing framework** that will provide long term strategic direction.
- Provided expert support to the ministries of finance and line ministries to mainstream **gender in budgetary processes**.
- Developed a **comprehensive tool** for government institutions and CSOs to monitor and report on international and national gender equality and women's empowerment commitments.
- Continuously supported public finance reform in BiH and transition from line-item to **programme-based budgeting**.
- Contributed to the promotion of the statistical bulletin **Women and Men**, only of its kind in BiH.
- Produced various **knowledge products** on women's political participation and leadership.
- Established collaboration with supreme audit institutions in BiH to increase their awareness on gender mainstreaming and **gender-responsive budgeting (GRB)**, and implementation of **gender audits**.
- Contributed that Central Election Commission has officially committed to ensuring **gender equality in electoral processes** and their internal institutional organization.
- Provided various stakeholders with training and knowledge products on how to integrate **gender equality in the IPA III** (Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance) programming process.
- Contributed that BiH, for the first time, has partially calculated the Gender Equality Index. The Index covers two full domains (Knowledge and Power) and two partial domains (Work and Health) out of a total of six domains envisaged by the European Institute for Gender Equality methodology: Knowledge, Power, Work, Health, Time and Money.

*Sustainable Development Goals: 17 interconnected and ambitious goals which address the major development challenges faced by people in BiH and around the world.

And many more...



Achievements in numbers

- ▶ More than **400** government officials have increased knowledge on programme budgeting, GRB, policy making and EU gender equality knowledge.
- ▶ **80** government and CSO representatives have improved knowledge of data collection, monitoring, implementation, and reporting on normative commitments in regard to gender equality.
- ▶ **10** political parties have access to tailored and strategic recommendations on advancing gender parity and equality.
- ▶ Statistical institutions have access to a tool that tabulated **82** gender relevant indicators, so they could enhance their SDG monitoring.
- ▶ More than **1,000** stakeholders have access to **9** knowledge products on women's political participation and leadership.
- ▶ **17,000** civil servants have on their disposal an online course on GRB.
- ▶ **3** supreme audit institutions are committed to gender equality principles and production of GRB audits.
- ▶ **240** media professionals have evidence of the importance of financing for gender equality and proper media reporting in that regard.

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