

# SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND OTHER FORMS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN URBAN SPACES IN ALBANIA, 2019

## KORÇA MUNICIPALITY



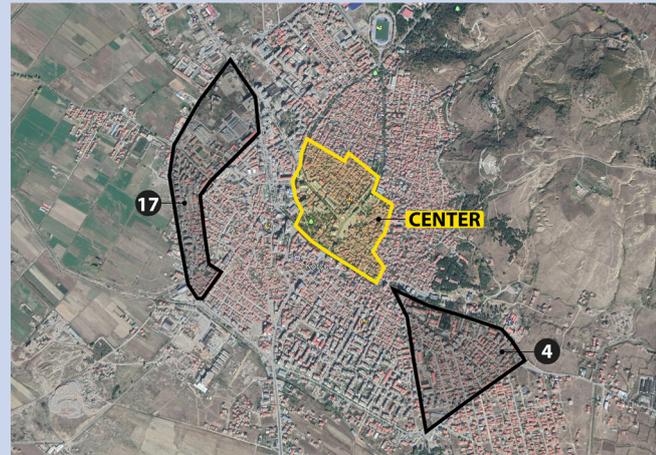
**250 Interviews** with women and girls divided between Center, Zone 17 and Zone 4



**One Focus Groups** with women and girls



**Six Structured Observations** and one Safety Audit Walk\*  
(\*Structured observations are observations of an area, with the help of checklists, to assess its conditions in various aspects. Safety Audit walks are conducted by a group of women and girls in a certain area to assess, with the help of guidelines and checklists, what makes them feel unsafe and how an area can be improved.)



Zone 17, Center, Zone 4

### Safety of Neighborhoods and Personal Safety

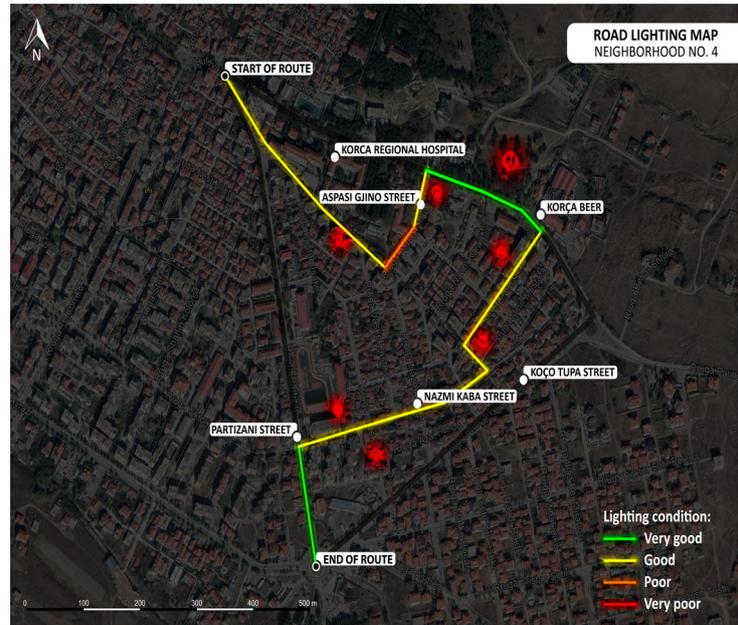
Despite the overall view that lighting in Korça is generally good, when asked which factors contribute to feeling unsafe in the neighborhoods, over half of all respondents mentioned “poor lighting”. In Zone 4, nearly 2 in 3 respondents mentioned lighting as a factor which contributes to feeling unsafe.



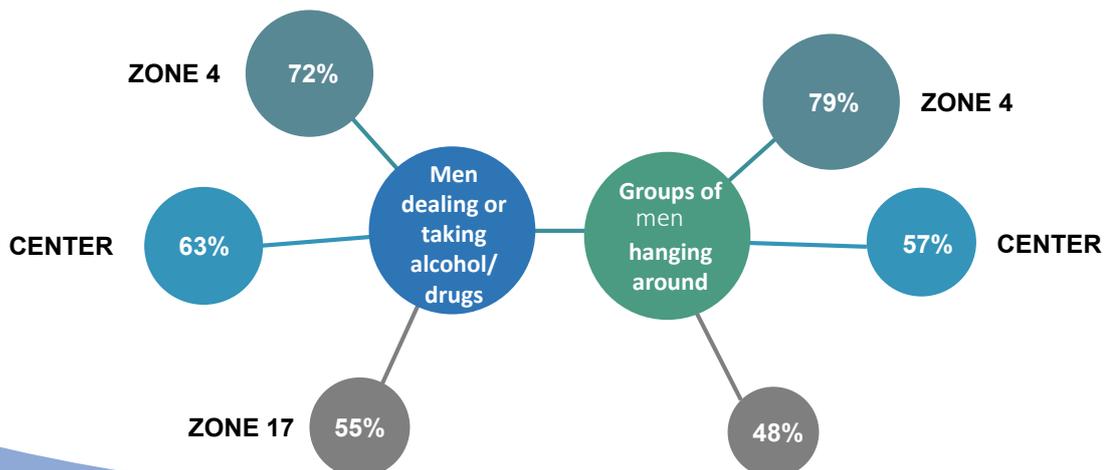
It might be that even though the overall lighting situation is “good”, it is not perceived as “good enough”, in some areas of the neighborhoods, to create a safe feeling for women and girls in Korça.

The lack of effective or visible police is also seen as an issue contributing to feeling unsafe in the neighborhoods by more than half of all respondents.

Nearly 2 out of 3 respondents of all three neighborhoods view men dealing with or taking drugs/alcohol as a factor which makes women feel unsafe (63 per cent). Zone 4 stands out where this issue appears to be severe (72 per cent). Moreover, groups of men hanging out on the streets in Zone 4 seem to also contribute significantly to feeling unsafe in this neighborhood (79 per cent).



### In this area, which factors contribute to you feeling unsafe?



Victim shaming appears to be an issue in Korça, with around 1 in 4 respondents “partly agreeing” to the statement “Girls/women who are sexually harassed or sexually abused provoke it themselves” (26 per cent). (See figure on the right).

### Help and Reporting



Over 90 per cent of respondents from all three neighborhoods in Korça are not aware that a national helpline under 116 117 exists, where victims of sexual harassment or violence can call. Most are also no aware of other services which might offer help to victims.

### “Girls/women who are sexually harassed or sexually abused provoke it themselves”



Around 3 out of 4 respondents think that women and girls are afraid to approach the Police, and over half of the respondents believe that victims are too ashamed or afraid that people will judge them or their families. Especially in Zone 17 and in the Center, being afraid to approach the Police, appears to be a pressing issue (mentioned by 88 and 84 per cent of respondents respectively).

### Key Recommendations for Korça Municipality

- Urgent intervention is needed to improve lighting system as well as to ensure that the lighting system is managed properly during the entire year. Intervention is to be prioritized in some streets such as in: The Former Industrial Zone, “Vangjush Miho” park, “Fan Noli” avenue, as well as “Aspasi Gjino” street.
- Public transportation infrastructure is in urgent need of expansion and improvements. Data of this study has shown that a significant number of women and girls do not make use of the public transport due to lack of existing bus lines in many areas.
- In regard to violence against women, since the municipality of Korça is the main responsible institution at local level to coordinate the Coordinated Referral Mechanism against Domestic Violence, it should require from police to increase the level of controls and patrolling in all neighborhoods of the city and not simply in main ones. These patrolling must be with high frequencies especially during evening and late hours in night.
- Information on existing services as well as their contact numbers must be spread all over the city, especially in bus stations, health clinics and schools. Specialized NGOs (although in small number) must collaborate with state institutions for such purpose. In the meantime, they must improve their public relations and must ensure that their services will be available and accessible for all groups of victims, despite their personal characteristics such as age, disability, dependency, and sexual orientation.
- The Municipality of Korça, must take all needed measures to allocate and/or ensure the budget for capacity building activities focused especially on local administrators of all administrative units (as planed in the Gender Action Plan 2018-2020). These capacity building activities must have a very strong focus on sexual harassment and sexual violence as well as on identification, referral and recording of such cases from them. Particular attention should be paid on avoiding gender stereotypes and victims’ prejudices by the general public as well as responsible institutions who are dealing with victims, such as the Police.

