



Photo: UN Women/Meder Sadyraliev

IN BRIEF

# ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

## UN WOMEN ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017



Planet 50-50 by 2030  
Step It Up for Gender Equality

# SNAPSHOT OF UN WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA IN 2017

**800**

**national, provincial and local civil servants** gained knowledge and skills in gender-responsive budgeting in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Serbia and Turkey.



Equivalent of **\$92 million** allocated towards the achievement of gender equality in the national budgets of Albania, Kazakhstan and Kosovo<sup>1</sup>



**6 countries** supported for CEDAW reporting and implementation

**18 countries** were provided with concrete guidance on how to integrate gender equality in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals



**Partnered with 50 civil society organizations,**

including those representing minorities, in 7 countries to end violence against women in line with the Istanbul Convention



**64% decrease**

in violent incidents from 2015-2017 on the border between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan

**7 laws**

amended or adopted in Albania, Serbia, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Georgia to advance gender equality and contribute to ending violence against women



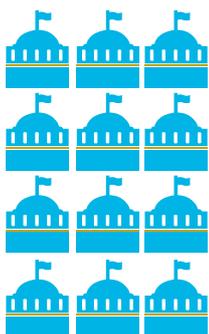
Contributed to the ratification and entry into force of the **Istanbul Convention** in Georgia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and its signing in Moldova

**1,100**

marginalized women and refugees accessed education courses, counselling services and childcare support at the SADA Women-only Centre in Gaziantep, Turkey



**18 million** people reached through social media during 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence Campaign



**26 Ministries/ State institutions in 5 countries**

introduced gender-responsive budgeting and gender indicators into their programmes in South-East Europe and the Republic of Moldova



1. All references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

## Ending violence against women and girls

- Several countries, including **GEORGIA**, **MOLDOVA** and **ALBANIA**, adopted and/or amended legislation and policies to combat domestic violence, while women's rights advocates called for tougher sanctions against perpetrators. In **KOSOVO**<sup>1</sup>, **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**, **AND UKRAINE**, there is a growing recognition of the needs of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence.
- In its 2018 budget, the Ministry of Finance in **KOSOVO** announced the allocation of €1 million in reparations to conflict-related sexual violence survivors and authorized four NGOs to support the process.
- Having ratified the Istanbul Convention, the Parliament of **GEORGIA** adopted a milestone legal framework aimed at harmonizing domestic legislation with the Convention.
- Progress was made towards an intersectional approach to implementing CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention in the **WESTERN BALKANS** and **TURKEY**, through consultations with a broad coalition of civil society organizations and over 40 women's representatives from minorities in the region under UN Women/EU programme.
- In **KOSOVO**, the Women's Parliamentary Caucus received recommendations from the Security and Gender Equality Group – chaired by UN Women, in consultation with the Office of the National Coordinator on Domestic Violence – for amendments to the Criminal Code in accordance with the requirements of the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.
- In **KOSOVO**, under the leadership of the Office of the National Coordinator on Domestic Violence and UN Women, the first National Database for survivors of gender-based/domestic violence is being developed within the Ministry of Justice and is expected to be launched in September 2018.
- In **SERBIA**, the creation of a UN Women-supported programme for professionals working with female victims of violence contributed to a 70 per cent increase (compared to previous years) in the number of measures issued against perpetrators of domestic violence.
- A new law against domestic violence, aimed at improving the reporting of cases to the police, was adopted in **KYRGYZSTAN** in April 2017. This was largely a result of three years of advocacy by a coalition of women's rights activists, UN agencies and the UNITE network, coordinated by UN Women.
- In **KAZAKHSTAN**, as a result of the #Don'tBeSilent movement, 16 criminal cases were registered by the police. Dina Smailova, the leader of the social movement and a survivor of a gang rape, was nominated by the UN Women Executive Director to play as part of the 'SDG 5 Dream Team' at the Global Goals World Cup.
- In **MOLDOVA**, a new national helpline promoted by UN Women provided support to gender-based violence survivors. In the district of Drochia, an innovative approach – known as 'positive deviance' – was introduced as part of a concerted effort to end violence through the provision of a combination of services. Maria Scorodinschi, a survivor of gender-based violence, has become so renowned for her activism that she was recognized by BBC News as one of the 100 most inspirational women of 2017.
- In **GEORGIA**, the Inter-Agency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence was formed in June 2017, with UN Women, UNDP and UNFPA advocacy and technical support. The Commission is the institutional mechanism responsible for national coordination of the development and implementation of policies for gender equality; ending violence against women; and women, peace and security.

1. All references to Kosovo on this document shall be understood to be in full compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).



## Engaging women in peace and security

Photo: UN Women/Rena Effendi

- With support of UN Women, **MOLDOVA** and **ALBANIA** have begun work on their first National Action Plans (NAPs) for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, while other countries have approved their second or third NAPs for women's participation in peace and security. In **MOLDOVA**, women MPs were instrumental in encouraging the government – particularly the Ministry of Defence – to develop its first ever 1325 NAP.
- UN Women in **KOSOVO** continued to facilitate communication between Kosovan and Serbian MPs through the Regional Women's Lobby (<http://rwlsee.org/>), increasing cooperation between women in politics and civil society, the participation of women in political parties, and financial support for women's empowerment and engagement in local peacebuilding processes.
- UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia contributed to the enhancement of analytical and technical knowledge on women, peace and security, through capacity development of state actors responsible for 1325 NAP development in **MOLDOVA, ALBANIA** and **TURKEY**.
- In **SERBIA**, UN Women supported establishment of a multipurpose women's centre, supporting vocational and educational training, and providing counselling and information to 901 women and girls, including migrant victims of violence.
- Women MPs from **UKRAINE**, with the support of UN Women, played an active role in lobbying the government for further inclusion of women in peacebuilding, recovery and security sector reform. In conflict-affected communities in eastern Ukraine, women are contributing directly to the planning and implementation of recovery efforts.
- A fully functional government inter-agency working group for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 was established for the day-to-day coordination and implementation of gender equality in the security sector in **UKRAINE**, with a clear workplan for each participating institution.
- Cross-border tensions and violent incidents along the disputed border between **TAJIKISTAN** and **KYRGYZSTAN** significantly decreased in 2017, largely due to UN Women efforts to build peaceful relations and cross-border cooperation, and the training of 35 women in conflict resolution.
- UN Women **GEORGIA** partnered with **UKRAINE, ARMENIA** and **AZERBAIJAN**, to facilitate international meetings with civil society organizations and government, share experiences, and develop working partnerships to address women, peace and security issues in the region.



Photo: UN Women/Dragana B. Stevanovic

## Promoting women's economic empowerment and security

- Support by UN Women has enabled rural women to develop sustainable sources of income: in **ALBANIA**, 471 women smallholders and farmers benefited from agricultural subsidy schemes; and in **ARMENIA**, support was provided through the Global Fund for Women.
- In **KYRGYZSTAN**, over 20,000 people, including 3,000 from the most vulnerable populations, have improved access to irrigation water. Almost 8,000 students – including close to 4,000 girls – in 13 schools can now access water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. Around 30,000 people were reached through advocacy campaigns by UN Women on gender equality, effective use of land and water resources, and equal participation in water management, through ‘door-to-door’ initiatives led by trained students. 124 women in Kyrgyzstan now have access to water management in six municipalities.
- In **ALBANIA**, UN Women advocated for regulatory changes to simplify property registration procedures, encouraging registration in the names of both spouses, and ensuring women know how to gain equal access to property, including agricultural land. Free legal aid has assisted 150 women and girls in property-related cases and 282 officials have been trained in implementing the new provisions.
- In **TURKEY**, 235 companies have officially taken responsibility for gender equality; Turkey now has the largest number of Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs) signatory companies in the world. The UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia led the development of the WEPs implementation and self-assessment guides, to encourage private sector support to gender equality.
- In **SERBIA**, rural women acquired new legal rights to register their agricultural households, through amendments to by-law regulations. A coalition of women’s civil society organizations supported by UN Women developed the CEDAW Shadow Report on the position of rural women, the challenges that they face and recommendations for addressing them.



Photo: UN Women/Rena Effendi

## Encouraging women's leadership and political participation

- In **ALBANIA**, women made significant gains in recent elections: 40 per cent of candidates were women, which resulted in a 10 per cent increase in women's representation and a 28 per cent increase in women MPs. Albania's ranking in the Global Gender Gap Index for women's political empowerment improved from 53rd to 38th in one year. In the newly elected government, 50 per cent of ministers, including the Deputy Prime Minister, are women.
- In **MOLDOVA**, a National Strategy on Gender Equality for 2017-2021 was adopted, which will promote women's political participation and monitor the implementation of a 40 per cent gender quota for political parties in upcoming elections.
- **UKRAINE** strengthened accountability and oversight of gender equality national obligations, by setting up a new structure in the Cabinet of Ministers: The Vice Prime Minister on EU and Euro-Atlantic Integration was given responsibility for coordination of the national gender equality policy, and the position of Commissioner for Gender Equality Policy was established.
- UN Women supported successful advocacy for constitutional guarantees of gender equality in **GEORGIA**. After concerted lobbying by civil society organizations, women's groups and development partners, the new Constitution, adopted in 2017, requires that the State play an active role in achieving substantive gender equality by systematically instituting new laws, policies and programmes so that women enjoy not just equal opportunities, but equal results.



Photo: UN Women/ Gizem Yarbil Gurol

## Making budgets work for gender equality

- In **ALBANIA**, there has been a significant increase in public budget allocation towards gender equality: over \$85 million. In addition, gender equality has been adopted as a core principle in the Organic Budget Law and the Law on Local Finances. In **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**, specific gender equality indicators are mandatory for the programmes of all line ministries.
- In **THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**, 24 municipal programmes introduced gender-specific measures and gender budget allocations; 9 line ministries and State institutions developed gender budget statements for sectoral programmes; and 15 Gender Budget Watchdog reports were developed by civil society organizations.
- In **MOLDOVA**, Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB) has been embedded (for the second time) into the National Strategy on Gender Equality for 2017-2021, as one of ten priority areas. The Strategy focuses on: i) developing, piloting and institutionalizing GRB tools; ii) building the capacity of relevant central and local government staff on gender equality; and iii) supporting the development of ministerial gender-sensitive sectoral action plans.
- In **SERBIA**, more than 55 budget users introduced gender goals into their budgets and three ministries budgeted for gender analysis. 47 government institutions (33 at the national and 14 at the provincial levels) included gender equality commitments into their 2018 budget objectives and programmes; and the Ministry of Finance included GRB and reporting provisions in their 2018 budget instructions.

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