



Photo: UBitter Medya / Umutcan Ören

IN BRIEF

ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

UN WOMEN ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018



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

SNAPSHOT OF UN WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA IN 2018

Trained over
4,800
civil servants and
legislators

who gained knowledge and skills in gender-responsive budgeting in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Moldova, and Serbia



3,500
women

in the Western Balkans and Turkey are better informed on their right to live free from violence and the services available in the case of violence



An additional
\$178 million
was allocated to **close gender gaps** and advance gender equality in Albania in the 2019 budget, representing a **148% increase** from 2018

Engaged
1,728

men and boys on how to address gender stereotypes, social norms and gender-based violence in Kosovo¹, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Moldova



Supported
250
organizations

across the Western Balkans and Turkey to monitor and report on violations of women's human rights for the prevention of violence against women



Contributed to the adoption of the **first-ever National Action Plan** for the implementation of **UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security** in Albania

8 laws

were adopted or amended across the region that improve gender equality



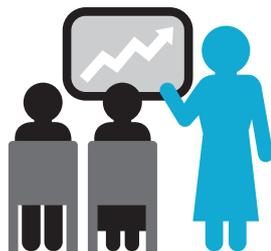
Trained over
1,500
law enforcement officials and service providers in the Western Balkans and Turkey to monitor and prosecute cases of violence against women and support survivors

Engaged
2,200
women
in the ECA region in economic empowerment trainings

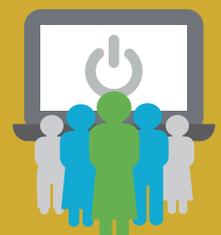


4,950
refugee women and girls directly accessed humanitarian and resilience services supported by UN Women in Turkey

Conducted
15
workshops
on the collection and analysis of gender statistics with government representatives in Georgia and Kyrgyzstan



Dedicated
\$460,000
to design and test innovative solutions to challenges that women and girls face throughout the region



Promoting gender equitable policies and legislation

- With technical and advocacy support from UN Women, countries from the region adopted or amended legislation to address violence against women and ensure that public policies meet the needs of women and girls. In Kosovo¹, Georgia, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan, governments have introduced offenses or made amendments regarding domestic violence.
- Government documents are now increasingly gender-aware and are based on global norms and standards. Government budgets in North Macedonia and Albania now take gender into consideration in their planning, and gender sensitive measurements of progress have been introduced in Moldova, Ukraine and Serbia.
- The implementation of the Istanbul Convention – the comprehensive regional instrument on ending violence against women and domestic violence – has improved throughout the region. North Macedonia ratified the Convention in March 2018 with the support of UN Women, and the standards within the Convention informed amendments to the criminal code in Kosovo.
- Across the region, countries are taking action to monitor and implement the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). With UN Women's assistance, Serbia, Kazakhstan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Tajikistan all submitted official reports to the CEDAW Committee, and civil society in Turkey and Serbia developed their own reports to hold governments to account. Ukraine has also adopted a National Action Plan to implement the feedback they received from the CEDAW Committee in 2017.
- A continued focus on gender and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was ensured through UN Women's contribution in events across the region. Established at the 'The Regional Forum on Sustainable Development' UN Women is co-chairing an inter-agency issue-based coalition on gender equality and co-facilitated a side event on gender and as an accelerator for the SDGs.
- In partnership with the Women's Water Forum and UNDP, UN Women also organized a number of pre-conference events at the international conference 'Water for Sustainable Development', focusing on mainstreaming gender into SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation.
- In Albania, as a result of UN Women advocacy and technical assistance, the government enacted a 148% increase in 2019 budgetary allocations aimed at closing gender gaps and advancing gender equality, compared to 2018 allocations.
- As a result of recommendations made by the Security and Gender Group in Kosovo, chaired by UN Women, the Criminal Code of Kosovo has been amended to accurately define all acts of domestic violence and list it as a separate criminal offence.
- The Ukrainian government adopted the first-ever Action Plan for the Implementation of the CEDAW.

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



Ending violence against women and girls

Photo: ASAM

- Legal frameworks to prevent and combat domestic violence have been developed and strengthened across the region, improving prosecution and prevention measures. Through UN Women's support and advocacy, Serbia, Ukraine, and Kosovo¹ made amendments to their Criminal Codes aligned with the Istanbul Convention; Kazakhstan revised a law on domestic violence prevention, and Ukraine introduced a new law on domestic violence.
- The implementation of legislative commitments has been strengthened through the creation of National Strategies and National Action Plans on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence by the governments of Georgia, North Macedonia and Moldova. These frameworks, developed with technical assistance from UN Women, set out key government interventions and serve as a mechanism for holding them to account.
- UN Women is amplifying the voices of marginalized and disadvantaged women to tackle discrimination and violence in the Western Balkans and Turkey through the regional programme 'Implementing Norms, Changing Minds'. As a result of using a 'by and for' approach, marginalized women are represented by women from their own communities to highlight the specific issues they face.
- In Kyrgyzstan, UN Women rolled out the Gender Action Learning System, a community-led empowerment methodology implemented through field trainings to connect youth and older adults, strengthen family ties and combat violence against women.
- UN Women is working with governments to improve the collection of data on violence against women to inform evidence-based policymaking and raise awareness. In Kosovo, the first National Unified Database for tracking cases of violence against women and domestic violence has been established, and a statistical tool has been developed in Moldova for data collection on domestic violence.
- In partnership with the Public Defender's Office in Georgia, UN Women launched its second Femicide Watch Report, which analysed cases of femicide in 2017, highlighted prevention measures for femicide and focused on the challenges of existing protection mechanisms.
- UN Women supported 14 networks of women's civil society organizations (CSOs) to monitor and report on the implementation of CEDAW, the Istanbul Convention, and country national strategies on ending violence against women in Albania, Turkey, Serbia, North Macedonia, Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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 Europe and Central Asia/Rena Effendi

- Five countries have affirmed their commitment to the active inclusion of women in peace and security processes. With the support of UN Women, Albania adopted its first-ever National Action Plan (NAP) on UN Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1325, and Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, and Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted new cycles of NAPs. In Ukraine, a mid-term review of the NAP assessed the status of its implementation and highlighted areas for improvement.
- Survivors of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) now have increased legal recognition and livelihood support through the improvement of government services for survivors in Bosnia and Herzegovina; the drafting of a Strategy for Prevention and Response to Conflict Related Sexual Violence in Ukraine, and the functionalization of the Government Commission for the Recognition and Verification of the Status of Survivors of Sexual Violence that provides reparations to CRSV survivors in Kosovo¹.
- In Turkey, 2,885 refugee women benefited from services and trainings on economic recovery support and livelihoods through a unique cooperation model supported and facilitated by UN Women and its partners. These trainings engaged the most-at-risk women in the southeast region of Turkey.
- Women mediators working across conflict lines were supported by UN Women. 243 women activists from Tajik and Kyrgyz cross-border communities received capacity building training to support them as community mediators, and three cases of cross border disputes were successfully resolved by women mediators at the local and cross-border levels in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.
- In Georgia, over 80 women affected by the conflict or engaged in peacebuilding and 50 representatives of women's non-governmental organisations (NGOs) were provided with a platform to discuss women's participation in peace and security issues through UN Women's support; five thematic meetings were held, and an Open Day on Women, Peace and Security was organized.
- In Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, cross regional dialogues in the border region of Sughd and Batken were improved by bringing together women leaders and activists at an Open Day on Women, Peace and Security that highlighted the importance of women's participation in sustaining peace. This was facilitated by gender-sensitive peace building interventions introduced by UN Women and partner UN agencies.
- More than 1,500 high school students in Kyrgyzstan improved their advocacy skills and knowledge of gender equality and conflict resolution as a result of the 'My Safe and Peaceful School' course supported by UN Women.

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

Making budgets work for gender equality

- With the support of UN Women, the governments of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Kazakhstan and Serbia have become more gender-sensitive with their budgetary distributions. Including more gender-specific objectives in their budgets than ever before has resulted in increased funds to work towards gender equality.
- The capacities of both governments and CSOs to implement gender-responsive budgeting was increased through learning exchanges, developed and facilitated by UN Women. To this aim, five regional exchange workshops were held with public officials from across the region, and an informal network of budget watchdogs on gender equality was created with a group of CSOs from Albania, North Macedonia and Moldova.
- Moldova, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia now all have e-Learning modules on gender-responsive budgeting available as part of public administration training, with the undertaking of these modules being mandatory in Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia.
- In Bosnia and Herzegovina, survivors of conflict-related sexual violence from the municipality of Bratunac participated for the first time in budgetary decision-making for the municipality. As a result, a specific budgetary allocation was included that guarantees funds for survivors for the coming years.
- The Albanian Ministry of Finance improved its budget planning and preparation processes through the selection of gender-sensitive 'Key Performance Indicators' that will enable the monitoring of expenditures and progress on gender equality against objectives set as part of the planning process.
- In North Macedonia, line ministries must now include at least one gender-sensitive indicator in their strategic plans, as well as an analysis of the impact of their work on the lives of both women and men, due to reforms of their strategic planning methodology.
- In Moldova, seven watchdog reports on gender responsive budgeting were prepared by 20 CSOs representatives who had increased their skills to critically review local budgets with the help of UN Women.
- In Kazakhstan, UN Women supported the training of civil servants from across the country as well as central state bodies to improve their skills and abilities in gender responsive budgeting and conducting gender analyses of policies and budgets.



Photo: UN Women Europe and Central Asia/Rena Effendi

- With the support of UN Women, countries in the ECA region have adopted new ways of advancing women's economic independence by providing development opportunities to women and setting up key strategic partnerships. Across the region, 2,223 women have undertaken training on economic empowerment, 526 companies have engaged with UN Women on supporting the development of their female employees, and 21 small grants were given to women's groups working on economic empowerment.
- Entrepreneurship opportunities targeted at women's development and economic security were set up in Moldova, Georgia and Serbia. With UN Women's technical support, three women in Georgia won the government's Enterprise Georgia Grant Competition, while 800 women in rural Serbia had the opportunity to improve their knowledge and develop new skills for entrepreneurship in the agriculture and digital markets.
- In Georgia, 50 women participated in internships or mentorship programmes or received scholarships provided by private businesses. 150 women received trainings, and 49 received grants and 15 took part in a wine-making and agri-business study tour to Italy.
- 200 Moldovan girls from both rural and urban areas acquired the knowledge and skills necessary to develop their own IT products.
- Thanks to UN Women's training and technical support, the methodology used by the Moldovan government on setting and approving budgets will include gender equality principles.
- As a result of UN Women's entrepreneurship programme in Serbia, 197 women from vulnerable groups increased their capacities to generate income through organized trainings and mentorship on organic production, business development, computer literacy, and digital entrepreneurship.
- In Kyrgyzstan, 14 women's self-help groups have improved their knowledge and skills on how to generate income and livelihoods as well as developed connections with Water Users' Associations and Local Self-Governments to ensure their full inclusion and participation at the local level.

Encouraging women's leadership and political participation

- Governments in Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Albania, Moldova, Serbia, North Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina have made progress toward gender-responsive governance systems by adopting gender-sensitive targets to measure progress on the Sustainable Development Goals and mainstreaming gender in national planning and budgeting.
- Internally displaced persons and conflict-affected women's groups in Ukraine advocated for the establishment of seven Local Gender Coordination Councils to assist marginalized groups by bringing unity to their voices and concerns in public dialogues. This change was realized with the support of UN Women advocating governments to formalize local mechanisms for the inclusion and participation of women.
- In Kyrgyzstan, progress was made in the efforts to increase women's participation in governance systems through campaigning for improved legislation and strategies on elections. Due to UN Women supported advocacy efforts, policymakers are discussing the adoption of a 30% gender quota in local councils.
- In Turkey, 87 female political candidates and potential candidates participated in local workshops organized by UN Women aimed at improving participants' knowledge and skills as candidates and increase their confidence.
- UN Women continued to facilitate sub-regional networking between women Members of Parliament from Kosovo and Serbia through the Regional Women's Lobby, which is aimed at improving the participation of women in politics and increasing cooperation between women in politics and civil society.
- In Kazakhstan, UN Women supported the inclusion of rural women in the social and political spheres of 15 villages through advocacy efforts and by increasing women's capacity to participate in decision-making processes.
- More than 50 CSOs in Moldova are better able to support female political candidates and advocate for women's equal participation in politics and decision-making through their participation in UN Women supported trainings.



Fostering a culture of innovation

Photo: GirlsGoIT

- The Europe and Central Asia Regional Office set the precedent in the region for promoting a culture of innovation, providing annual funds of \$460,000 to develop and test programming innovations along with clear measures to monitor, evaluate and document these and other innovations.
- Innovative use of the internet and social media increased awareness and engagement on violence against women and women's rights. In projects funded and supported by UN Women, young IT specialists were engaged to develop digital innovations in Georgia, and experts in Kyrgyzstan answered young people's questions on gender, human rights, health and security on a popular online platform.
- Technology was engaged to drive innovative ways of improving the lives of women and girls, including the use of GPS electronic ankle tags to monitor violence against women offenders in Georgia and an exploration of virtual reality videos as a tool to increase awareness of violence against women in Moldova.
- As part of UN Women's Europe and Central Asia's regional programme 'Making Every Women and Girl Count,' training workshops were provided to national statisticians from Albania, Georgia, and Kyrgyzstan that focused on new and innovative data collection methods in gender-based violence and human trafficking.
- The Europe and Central Asia Regional Office reached 35,300 people with the integration of an interactive Google map on the website of its 'Fireflies' campaign, focused on ending violence against women in Turkey. Locations on the map were activated by visitors 'lighting a firefly' in a given location over 600 times, showing that interactivity adds an additional element of support and commitment for advocacy.
- In Serbia, UN Women used the innovative approach of presenting climate change as a threat to human rights and equality as a means to engage the government on environmental issues, resulting in the creation of a framework of activities to support the work of the Ministry of Environmental Protection on the gender mainstreaming of climate smart actions.
- The Europe and Central Asia Regional Office supported the highly experimental workshop 'Re-think. Experiment,' in which women's CSOs from eight countries worked on designing innovative solutions for women's empowerment. An additional allocation by the Fund for Gender Equality of \$15,000 will enable each grantee to test their prototypes, giving women's organizations a safe space for experimentation and failure.

Engaging with the Private Sector

- UN Women is closely engaged with the private sector, working with private companies and encouraging them to become signatories to the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs), a set of principles that ensure gender equality and promote women's empowerment in the workplace. In Georgia, the number of WEPs signatories tripled – from eight to 23 and 19 of those signatories took concrete actions to implement the principles.
- Turkey hosts the highest number of WEPs signatories globally at 283. In 2018, these signatories further committed to promoting a culture of gender equality and women's empowerment in the workplace.
- UN Women partnered with the Stock Exchanges in Kazakhstan and Georgia to hold awareness-raising events in connection with International Women's Day as part of the global "Ring the Bell for Gender Equality" initiative, which focused on raising awareness about the economic benefits of women's empowerment.
- In Ukraine, UN Women created strategic partnerships with the private sector to increase outreach for new audiences and advocate for gender equality. In one example, the seventh Sweden-Ukraine Business Forum, organized by the Embassy of Sweden, hosted a dedicated panel on HeForShe as an opportunity for Swedish businesses in Ukraine.
- In Kazakhstan, UN Women organized a session on "Corporate Sector for the Sustainable Economic Growth" as part of the Global Challenges Summit, bringing together representatives from the business sector, government, NGOs and academia to discuss women participation in the economy, gender equality and the building of stronger economies.

UN Women Regional Office
For Europe and Central Asia
Abide-i Hürriyet Cad. İstiklal Sok.
No:11 KEY Plaza Kat:8
34381 Şişli, İstanbul, Turkey

eca.unwomen.org
www.facebook.com/unwomeneuropecentralasia
www.twitter.com/unwomeneca
www.flickr.com/photos/unwomeneuropecentralasia/
www.ok.ru/unwomen
Youtube: UN Women Europe and Central Asia



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