Gender analysis of subsidies in agriculture in the RS

During the period 2014–2020, women comprised 9 to 12 per cent of the beneficiaries of subsidies in agriculture in Republika Srpska and yet they only received from 5 to 9 per cent of the funds.

Although the share of women and the amount of funds they received have grown over recent years, the apparent increase in the allocation of funds for individuals in 2020 benefited men much more than women.

Gender-neutral approach used when designing the policy response, as is the case with job retention schemes, reinforced pre-crisis inequalities and indirectly favoured jobs held by men.

The number of jobs supported fell from 164,000 in April 2020 to 86,000 in June 2020 with 60 per cent of subsidies paid under the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina job retention scheme, supporting jobs held by men. In Republika Srpska, this support fell from 43,000 to less than 20,000 jobs.

Around 60% of jobs in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and 70% of jobs in Republika Srpska lost during the pandemic belonged to women.

Gender analysis of impact of COVID-19 on job losses and related policy response

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UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 AT THE CENTRAL LEVEL IN ALBANIA

Gender analysis of programmes in social assistance and protection of families with children in FBiH

The breakdown of funds spent on social protection programmes (social assistance and protection of families with children) in 2019 and 2020 (up to October 2020), shows that more than a half of spending goes on child support and maternity benefits for employed women.

Women were primary beneficiaries of social protection programmes. They comprised 67 per cent of all beneficiaries and received almost 75 per cent of the funds in 2020, a slight increase from 2019.

Moreover, cash support programmes have more female beneficiaries. This data supports the claim that more women are poor and vulnerable members of society.

Conclusions

The main fiscal policy response (job retention schemes) targeted all sectors of the economy and all companies according to the same criteria. This resulted in a policy response that mirrored the situation in the labour market prior to the crisis, without taking into account the differing impact of the crisis on jobs held by women and men.

Recommendations

1. Targeted support for businesses mostly affected by crisis 
   Women comprise the majority of employees in the affected sectors (the services sectors of tourism, hospitality, education and health). Support to micro and new businesses should not be abandoned in a crisis.

2. Cash support for women, especially in a crisis
   A. Cash for vulnerable women, B. Support for families with children, C. Broad coverage of income support/unemployment benefits

3. Agriculture spending as an opportunity to foster gender equality, by
   A. Setting gender-sensitive goals within the existing programmes, B. Creating subprogrammes designed to improve gender equality.

4. Levelling up the opportunities for women in relation to those for men should be made a permanent priority policy objective.