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| **Promoting Gender Responsive Policies in South East Europe – Phase II** **Overview**Over the past years, UN Women has provided support to national and local stakeholders in strengthening democratic governance and advancing women’s rights through initiatives aimed at **mainstreaming gender in policy planning and budgeting**. In 2014, UN Women launched the 3-year r**egional project** on Promoting Gender Responsive Policies in South East Europe and Republic of Moldova financed by Austrian Development Agency and Swiss Agency Development and Cooperation. It is a direct follow up of the UN Women CSEE regional project “Promoting Gender Responsive Policies in South East Europe” (2011 -2013) that covered Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Former Yugoslav Republic (FYR) of Macedonia.The final evaluation of this project recommended continuation of activities especially with regard to **institutional capacity building and increased involvement of key budget actors at the required decision-making levels**. **Background** The new regional project will continue contributing to the implementation of international and national gender equality commitments while maintaining and deepening the involvement of governmental and non-governmental actors. In **Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)**, the project will support government at the **state and entity levels** to implement key national laws (in particular the Gender Equality Law) and to fulfill their commitments to women’s empowerment and gender equality as formulated in the Country Development Strategy for BiH (2009-2014) and BiH Gender Action Plan (GAP 2013-2017). The project will also respond to the demand of the government and donors for introduction of gender equality principles into official budget planning using the public finance reforms and shift towards programme-based budgeting as an entry point. At the entity level, the project will support the implementation of the Action Plan for Introduction of GRB in the Pilot Institutions in Federation of BiH and the Republika Srpska Strategic Plan for Rural Development (2009-2015), in particular, the RS Action Plan for the advancement of Rural Women (2009-2015). It will also work with a number of **municipalities** on bringing gender perspective into local budgets.The demand-driven and targeted technical assistance on GRB provided to government institutions, public administration and civil society organizations during phase I, paved the way for the second phase which should **further institutionalise GRB**, address selected institutional gaps and to more holistically impact on the public policy and budgeting systems of the countries. **Project Description**The overarching project objective is to contribute to the implementation of gender equality commitments as enshrined in various international human rights documents including the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights, CEDAW, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, EU Equality Directives, and national laws and strategies on gender equality**. **Expected Results:** * Better reflection of gender equality concerns in the sectorial programs and budgets at the central and local levels.
* Strengthened oversight of central and local government, policies, programs, plans and budgets towards gender equality commitments.
* Exchange of knowledge and learning on GRB facilitates replication of good practices and lessons learned.

The project focus is on strengthening the capacities of **state, entity and local governments to integrate GRB in policy planning and budgeting**; and of non-governmental actors to **hold governments accountable** to **gender equality commitments** using GRB as a tool.**Planned Activities:*** Building capacities of local and national governments through training, technical assistance, developing tools to include gender responsive approach in planning and budgeting and citizen’s participation;
* Advocating for selected programmes (rural development, social protection and employment) and plans to include specific proposals and budgets for gender equity;
* Initiating changes in the budget documents, guidelines and templates to reflect GRB and support within governments with the capacity to continue the work to promote institutionalization and sustainability;
* Building the capacity of CSO to monitor, analyze, program, formulate proposals and defend them through dialogue and advocacy with government institutions;
* Generating a critical mass of professionals in the field of gender responsive budgets and participation through alliances with academic institutions, GRB networks and organizations working in this field;
* Supporting academic research and discussions on gender and economics issues and promote efforts to integrate them into national, regional and global economic policy debates.
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| ***Title*****“***Promoting Gender Responsive Policies in South East Europe – Phase II”****Budget****Total Regional: 2,858,184 USD****Total: 418,185 USD******(Bosnia and Herzegovina)*** |
| ***Duration****3 years (Feb 2014 – Feb 2016)****Executing Agency******United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (UN Women)******Partners****The project will benefit from the previously established governmental and civil society partnerships, including with gender agency, gender centers, ministries of finance, ministries responsible for rural development, social protection and employment in both entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition, the project will reinforce close partnership with the local governments, universities and civil society.* ***Target Groups:**** ***Civil servants in selected line ministries at entity levels of government.***
* ***Agency for Gender Equality and two entity Gender Centres.***
* ***Ministries of Finance at entity level.***
* ***Members of Parliament.***
* ***Municipalities.***
* ***Civil society organizations.***
* ***Academia.***

***Innovative Approach******Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB)*** *is an innovative public policy tool for assessing the revenues with gender lenses and targeting the expenditures towards the needs of women and men.* *It aims to close gender gaps and reduce gender inequalities by strengthening the government’s accountability with respect to gender equality.* *GRB advances gender equality and it contributes to the efficiency, transparency and accountability of government budgets and consultation processes.****Contacts******Anne-Marie Esper Larsen,*** *UN Women Representative to BiH,****anne-marie.esper-larsen@unwomen.org******Ermira Lubani,*** *Regional Project Manager,****ermira.lubani@unwomen.org******Anesa Dizdarevic****, National GRB Coordinator,* ***anesa.dizdarevic@unwomen.org*** |