

Women's Association NERA

GRB tools used: costing analysis and advocacy;

Overview - The CSO started using GRB tools after going through a set of trainings provided by the Gender Budget Watchdog Network. NERA deemed it necessary as there were no attempts to introduce gender equality into the policies and budgets of City of Konjic. The problem that the initiative tackles are the insufficient health services for women.

GRB Initiative - The initiative targets disabled and overweight women from the City of Konjic and aims at making the health services in Konjic more gender equal, i.e., making them available for vulnerable groups of women. Prior to these initiatives, Konjic had no gender responsive policies, there was an existing Gender Equality Committee which did not work in the domain sufficiently. The CSO initiative worked on providing equal access to services, namely two initiatives were pushed to the agenda of the City Council of Konjic:

- Procurement of an adapted gynecological table for women and girls with disabilities and women with excessive body weight, and adaptation of the gynecological clinic to women and girls with disabilities;
- Procurement of mammography cassettes for women with large breasts.

There is no existing policy or strategy in place regarding gender equality, but the initiative is in line with what the Gender Equality Committee should advocate for. The initiative was adopted at the City Council after which the Mayor of Konjic sent the inquiry to the Health Centre in Konjic on whether they are in need of these procurements.

Success of the GRB initiative - The Health Centre answered positively, and the procurement of the abovementioned will be included in the budget for 2023 which is still in the process of preparation and adoption. The planned budget allocation for this is 30 000 BAM (approximately 15 000 EUR).

Success factors - The success of the practice lies in the fact that after years of no initiatives related to gender equality and specifically gender responsive budgeting, this CSO managed to raise awareness on this issue, educate citizens of Konjic, and conduct a research which resulted in an advocacy and later a council initiative for adapting health services for women with disabilities and overweight women.

Main obstacles - The main obstacle in this initiative was the fact that Konjic changed administratively in the period of implementation of this project from a municipality to a city thus there have been major changes in the local government and some processes were postponed.