

## Youth Association for Human Rights

### GRB tools used: sex-disaggregated beneficiary assessments;

**Overview** - Before 2021, participation of women in budget discussions in the Municipality of Lipjan was little to inexistent. Starting in 2021, women were more directly involved in public discussions and reading the budget. In 2022 there was a gender-responsive budgeting hearing of the budget in this municipality which will continue as a practice in the upcoming years. The Article 4 point 4 of the Kosovo Law No. 05/L -020 on Gender Equality, on Prohibition of Gender Discrimination, makes "the principle of gender equality and gender integration, including benefits following pregnancy and child birth, shall be applied in all planning, budgeting and implementation of the above acts by public and private entities" obligatory "in order to prevent gender discrimination in legislation, policies, programs and practice". Moreover, Article 5 point 5 of this law, obliges the "inclusion of gender budgeting in all areas, as a necessary tool to guarantee that the principle of gender equality is respected in collecting, distribution and allocation of resources".

**GRB initiative** - Through this initiative, targeting municipal institutions in institutionalizing gender responsive budgeting which in return would benefit all women in the municipality of Lipjan, YAHR presented a new approach to budgeting in the Municipality of Lipjan which is more aware about the importance of gender equality allocations of the budget. Through a memorandum of cooperation, the Municipality of Lipjan has committed to the institutionalization of GRB. The CSO initiative aimed at provision of equal access to goods, and resources to women and men, boys and girls, and that will continue in the future. And that can be done by ensuring equal participation in all budget cycle phases. Alongside meetings with women assembly members, and future candidates for the 2021 local elections, YAHR held round tables and training to increase the knowledge on GRB in Lipjan at the decision-making level. YAHR provided municipal representatives and civil society the opportunity to discuss what the Municipality of Lipjan lacks in terms of GRB and how a fair allocation of the municipal budget can be achieved. On February 24, 2021, YAHR organized a round table with representatives of local institutions, political entities, and civil society. The participants of this round table discussed modalities that would enable the future drafting of the municipal budget by incorporating gender aspects and following GRB practices. On April 8, 2021, YAHR, in cooperation and with support from the OSCE mission in Kosovo, organized a workshop on GRB. Ten people participated in this workshop including women members of the Assembly of the Municipality of Lipjan and Shtime, civil society representatives, and the office for gender equality of the Municipality of Lipjan. They also advocated for more budget allocations for shelters supporting survivors of gender-based violence.

**Success of the GRB initiative** - Small but crucial changes like the GRB consultations and the participation of women in those have been seen immediately since the start of the YAHR initiative to continue even after the end of their initiative, signaling its long-term impact. The municipality of Lipjan, for the first time in 2021, held a public consultation meeting for budget allocation with only women participants. Considering that budget allocation consultations are mainly attended by men, having a room full of women brought to the table their perspective and needs on how funds would benefit them. In 2022, besides a public consultation meeting with women only, there was also a GRB meeting initiated by this sub-grantee. Moreover, in 2022 the Municipality of Lipjan, apart from the budget allocation for this fiscal year, added another 3,000 euros for the shelter for persons who suffered gender-based violence.

**Success factors** - Gender-responsive policy appraisals and sex-disaggregated beneficiary assessments of public service delivery and budget priorities, were some of the GRB tools this CSO used in its initiative, together with a gender cost-effectiveness analysis. In order to achieve their goals, YAHR has signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Municipality of Lipjan who committed to ensuring gender equality allocations of the budget throughout the budget preparation cycle for the upcoming years.

**Main obstacles** - Public officials in the Municipality of Lipjan were not aware of GRB and its tools and it was difficult to train them in such a short time period. Moreover, women were not used to participating in budget appropriations planning as their participation in budget public consultations had been very low in prior years, as they were not aware of how their municipality can help them through the budget appropriations