

Gender Responsive Resilience Funding Monitoring

Training

We organized the first training for civil society organizations (CSOs) on the topic of Gender Responsive Resilience Funding Monitoring in Ulcinj, Montenegro, from 16 to 19 May 2023. The training aimed to enhance participants' understanding of gender responsive budgeting and equip them with tools to monitor the gender impact of resilience funding during crises. The training was attended by 30 participants from 27 CSOs from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia.



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The training covered the following modules:

 Introduction to Gender Equality Concepts and Gender Responsive Budgeting

 Budgeting Process and Entry Points for Civil Society to Influence the Budget

 Methodology for Assessing Gender Impact of Resilience and Other States of Emergency Funding in Times of Crises

 Sex-disaggregated Statistics and Gender Indicators as Preconditions to CSO Watchdog Work

 Gender Impact Assessment

Gender Responsive Resilience Funding Monitoring

Training

“ *To have effective gender budgeting requires not only a strong strategic framework, with gender equality goals and legislative underpinning, but also tools for implementation and a supportive environment that includes training and sex-disaggregated data.* **”**

— Mirela Gjoni, Women's Forum Elbasan (Albania)



Menstrual Hygiene Day

May 28

May 28 marked the **Menstrual Hygiene Day**. It serves as an **opportunity to highlight the importance of menstrual care and menstrual hygiene management**, and raise awareness about the issues faced by those who don't have access to sanitary products. 28th of May marks Menstrual Hygiene Day. The symbolism of the date lies in the fact that the average menstrual cycle lasts for 28 days, and women menstruate an average of 5 days.

As the Gender Budget Watchdog Network, we will continue our support for initiatives regarding this matter and invest efforts in making menstrual hygiene products as accessible as possible to all women and girls in our respective countries.

Members of our Network who work in this particular field have shared their opinions on the topic.

Menstrual Hygiene Day

May 28

“ We think that it is of utmost importance to unveil the myths surrounding menstrual cycle and point out the real problem which is unreasonably high taxation of menstrual hygiene products and the pervading lack of access to these products that the most vulnerable groups and economically disadvantaged women face. Public policies and the distribution of resources in form of public budgets can directly affect this issue and women’s bodies. When decision makers don’t take into account the gender impact of their resource distribution, they are directly influencing the lack of hygienic products and other necessary supplements which could ensure that women’s needs are met. By celebrating the world Menstrual Hygiene Day on 28th of May, it’s important to bring attention to the problem of period poverty which affects thousands of women in our country on a daily basis. With improper budget distribution a person may find themselves in a situation where they need to choose between buying period products or food. ”

Ivana Kulić, TPO Foundation (BiH)



Menstrual Hygiene Day

May 28

“Observing Menstrual Hygiene Day is important because it is a day when we can once again loudly remind that there are many sources of inequality in menstrual hygiene management, such as lack of information about menstruation, poor sanitary infrastructure and the fact that menstrual hygiene management products are often unavailable, which we define as menstrual poverty. Gender responsive budgeting can be a powerful tool for advocacy with evidence-based arguments, especially on issues that are treated as taboo or not seen as pressing issues in society, but have long-term negative effects on health, productivity, quality of life, such as menstrual health and hygiene and, consequently, menstrual poverty. Researching the situation, analyzing the problems of menstrual poverty and gender tax discrimination and giving recommendations for changes for the purpose of their eradication contributes to gender-responsive budgeting efforts.”

Aleksandra Radevska, Journalists for Human Rights (N. Macedonia)



World Environment Day

June 5

While climate change is a threat for everyone, it does not affect everyone equally. The **climate crisis**, just like nearly every other humanitarian and development challenge, has a greater impact on women. This is due to the unequal sharing of power between women and men, the gender gap in access to education and employment opportunities, the unpaid care burden, prevalence of gender-based violence, and all other forms of deep-rooted gender-based discrimination. Without gender equality, there is little hope of meeting the necessary transformation required to address climate change and ensure a sustainable and just future for all.

June 5 marked the **World Environment Day**, and due to environmental crisis being of interest for the Network, our members shared their impressions on this topic.



World Environment Day

June 5

“As all crisis, the environmental crisis that we are currently facing serves only to amplify existing inequalities and disproportionately affects the more vulnerable people in our society. The more we wait to address these issues, the more painful and difficult it will be to get to a sustainable future. The environmental crisis is *THE* issue of this decade – we either start fixing it now in an intersectional and inclusive way, or we risk a world in which inequalities have deepened and we've undone the progress in human rights in general.”

Elena Tacu, EcoVisio (Moldova)



World Environment Day

June 5

“When considering climate change from a gender equality perspective, there are various aspects to be taken into account. One consideration relates to the question of power and participation in policy-making. This addresses the issues of the proportion of women and men in decision making positions, in climate change research and technology development, as well as the negotiations or participatory processes in general. The reality is that women have limited access to and control of environmental goods and services and have negligible participation in decision-making. It is imperative that governments, institutions, and societies recognize the interconnectedness of these issues and by pushing them to integrate gender-responsive budgeting and include women's participation in climate change policy-making, we can address climate change in a manner that tackles gender inequality, protects the environment, and fosters a more sustainable and equitable future for all.”

Biljana Matevska, CRPM (N. Macedonia)

