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 Gender Budget Watchdog Network
for a gender equal region

 Sweden
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Workshop REPORT
GRB Watchdogging of Climate Change Financing Training for CSOs

November 13-15, 2024
VH Premier AS Hotel, Tirana, Albania

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1. Basic information

The Project Strengthening transparency and accountability for gender equality in Western Balkans and Moldova (Gender Budget Watchdog Network, Phase II), supports the Gender Budget Watchdog Network (GBWN) development and work in the Western Balkans and Moldova. GBWN is watchdogging the public finance use for gender equality and specifically applies gender lenses in monitoring of climate change financing.

The overarching long-term objective of the project is to improve public commitments for gender responsive climate action and increase available financing to implement gender-responsive climate action in the Western Balkans region and Moldova.

Scope of work:

Gender Budget Watchdog Network (GBWN) has Public Call for Capacity Building and Sub-Granting in Gender Responsive Budgeting and Climate Change Financing by the Gender Budget Watchdog Network from N. Macedonia, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro and Moldova.

In the frame of the public call there are foreseen online and face to face trainings as part of the application process for sub granting. The face to face training is part of the application process. The knowledge gained through the trainings should be used by applicants to develop a full project proposal with tailored assistance (mentoring guidance) from gender budgeting and climate finance experts and mentors from GBWN.

The applicants of the sub-granting scheme have to relate application to gender-responsive budgeting and climate change financing, including gender analysis to inform expenditures, monitoring expenditures using gender impact analysis, or using other GRB tools. Potential issues that projects may focus on may be, but not necessarily limited to:

- Gender in Global Environment Facility (GEF), Green Climate Fund (GCF), Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF);
- Gender in Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF), European Investment Bank (EIB) and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) green projects;
- Gender in national budget supported climate resilience projects;
- Gender in local budget climate change supported projects.

The training was held in VH Premier AS Hotel, Tirana, Albania in the period 13-15 November 2024. Approximately 19 (1 men), representatives of the applicants of the sub-granting scheme from 7 countries attended the training sessions.

Trainers: Slavjanka Pejchinovska – Andonova as climate changes expert and Gordana Nestorovska as gender expert

The training incorporated the following modules:

- (i) Climate Change Facts - Climate change phenomena, mitigation and adaptation
- (ii) Gender aspect of Climate change – gender roles in the society and how these specific roles make woman more vulnerable to the climate change
- (iii) International commitments for Climate Change and Gender Equality
- (iv) Opportunities for Climate Change Financing,
- (v) Gender Mainstreaming and the role of CSOs in monitoring the climate change financing from gender perspective on the local, national and regional level
- (vi) Consultation sessions From Concept Notes to Full Applications

The training methodology included interactive approach with content delivery/input from the trainers followed with exercises and discussions of participants. All planned topics are delivered fully except that some have lasted longer than planned due to significant input from some of the participants.

2. Results of the training program

Day first, 13th of November 2024

At the beginning of the training, introduction of participants was through interactive exercise. Participants were divided in pairs and had to discuss and decide two issues regarding climate changes and gender that are of most concerns for them. This contributed participants to get to know each other and to start with common concerns.

The First session of the First day was devoted to Climate Change Facts. Aim of the session was to initiate discussion among all participants about their views on climate change, to present the Climate change phenomena, how humans contribute to climate change, needs for actions to reduce Green House Gasses (GHGs) emissions and their consequences on environment, biodiversity loss and our lives. What are the main sources of GHGs emissions, what are climate change impacts and who are the most vulnerable groups to climate change consequences. First session ended with Quiz regarding climate change facts. The Quiz was successfully answered by the participants.

Second session of the first day was to discuss with participants the gender and climate change issues – gender roles in the society and how these specific roles make woman more vulnerable to the climate change. It was discussed how Gender responsive climate actions can support gender equality and minimize climate impacts. Participants were divided in groups and had a task to:

1. Identify the most important gender roles and gender issues/gaps in one sector (one of four sector in mitigation or one of four adaptation areas).
2. What are the causes of the gender gaps in the sector? What are the consequences of gender gap?
3. Do you have an information if and how do existing policies address these gaps in the given sector?

The participants started with group work and they were very active in changing their views and opinion on the topics. Some of the groups continue with work early in the morning next day.

Day II, 14th of November 2024

First Session of the second day was devoted to presentations of participants for the work of the previous day and discussions i.e. clarification what climate actions are in various sectors they have chosen, e.g., agriculture and land use, water consumption and water quality and human health proposing adaptation measures and few sectors proposing mitigation measures, e.g., transportation and energy. All proposed measures were discussed among all participants and beside the trainers, there were inputs from the participants as well.

The session continued with introduction of International commitments for Climate Change and Gender Equality. Aim of the session was participants to understand connection between international commitments for climate change and for gender Equality for: (i) monitoring of the states commitments in front of the international community and how they are transcendent in national policies and legislation (ii) use the state's commitments and reporting mechanisms as advocacy tools for inclusion of CSO in the processes. Connection between international, regional and national systems of protection were discussed as well.

Second Session of the second day was about Opportunities for Climate Change Financing. Aim of the session was to introduce the Green Climate Fund (GCF), its mission, financial instruments supporting climate change actions, eligibility projects, good examples on climate change projects with adaptation and mitigation actions. How to engage women and men of all ages as stakeholders in the design, development and implementation of climate projects to be financed. Gender mainstreaming in GCF projects and presentation of Gender Action Plan as a part of application for GCF climate funding. The participants were very interested in the possibilities and criteria for applying in front of Green Climate Fund, what is the role of the national institutions (National Designated Authority in front of GCF), what is the role of the accredited bodies in the whole application process, but also during the reporting, budgeting and implementing of project activities, what type of projects could be submitted, their size and other details.

Third session was devoted to Gender Mainstreaming and the role of CSOs in monitoring the climate change financing from gender perspective on the local, national and regional level. Aim of the session was to equip participants with the tools and methodologies needed to effectively monitor and track climate change financing from a gender perspective at various levels (local, national, and regional). Through group work reflection on gender indicators and gender budgeting tools and frameworks that participants can apply in their local and national contexts to assess whether climate finance mechanisms are equitable and inclusive.

At the fourth session, participants were working on their own applications. Experts were present to provide guidance to participants how to refine their approaches and projects and how to develop full project proposals from the concept notes. The participants were interested in green public procurement and how to include climate change aspects and gender mainstreaming into drafting and announcement of public procurement on municipal/government level. The experts provided some hints how the public procurements need to look at the life of cycle of the products (e.g. purchasing cars, purchasing various office stationery machines like printing machines, purchasing printing papers, sanitary products, organizing catering including water and food packaging, etc.

Day III, 15th of November 2024

The third day was devoted to presentations of participants of their ideas and applications, and were provided with comments and guidance on gender and climate change issues. Each group presented the planned activities and timeframe of project duration, it's main goal and specific objectives and provide elements of gender mainstreaming already included in the Concept note paper so far. In general, all Concept notes presented have been focused on strengthening public awareness for local authorities, public and decision-makers on climate change, events caused by pollution and additionally caused by climate change and the importance of gender mainstreaming in the phase of project implementation and monitoring. Mainly, the activities planned are education on climate change, gender budgeting, media coverage, common activities with local communities and authorities and developing the guidance for green public procurements on local level.

The trainers provided inputs and their recommendations refer to the strategic planning documents in each country where the priority for climate change interventions have been mentioned to be taken into account, type of mitigation and adaptation measures that could be included in various sectors - agriculture, human health, during public procurements, activities with disable population, synergy between already identified air, water and soil pollution and GHGs emissions to be taken into account explaining that with mitigation measures applied will support decreasing the pollution.

The second session of the third day finished with oral evaluation of participants and they expressed that this workshop was very educative but also practical and will certainly assist them in the development but also for implementation of their projects. Participants were encouraged, if they want additional information regarding some theme, to address the issue to GBWN Secretariat in order to organize webinars or on-line workshops.

Prepared by

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