GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGETING:

Integrating Climate Change Resilience and Gender-Responsive Budgeting in municipality of Bratunac, Bosnia and Herzegovina



Overview of the issue

Climate change disproportionately affects vulnerable communities, with women often bearing the heaviest socioeconomic burdens due to traditional gender roles and limited access to decision-making. The fundamental issue was that local governance historically lacked the capacity and tools for gender-responsive budgeting. Consequently, major climate strategies, such as the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP), were often developed without considering the distinct needs of women and men.

GRB Analysis

To drive structural change at the municipal level, the project successfully merged climate policy with gender-responsive budgeting (GRB). Local stakeholders conducted a **comparative analysis of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) and SECAP, which successfully identified critical funding gaps.**



Main Challenges

Need for stranghtening capacities of the stakeholders in the process and securing their higher participation in the consultation process.

Advocacy Impact

Through targeted advocacy and capacity building, the trajectory of local climate financing was fundamentally altered.

The transformative initiatives in the municipalities of Bihać and Bratunac demonstrate how civil society advocacy can reshape public finance to be both climate-resilient and gender-inclusive.

The City of Bihać adopted the GAP 2024–2026, establishing mechanisms to strengthen local gender equality and formally opening the door to integrate GRB into climate financing.

The initiative actively engaged around 30 women from vulnerable backgrounds, including breast cancer survivors, single mothers, and marginalized rural women, ensuring their direct lived experiences shaped policy recommendations.

In Bratunac, driven by a working group appointed by the mayor and supported by local women's organizations UŽ Priroda and UŽ Maja, the city drafted the Climate Change Resilience Plan 2026–2029.

This institutional anchoring means the resilience plan operates as an official annex to the municipality's Local Gender Equality Plan and serves as an integral component of its broader Rural Development Strategy.

Recommendations

- **Prioritizing energy efficiency subsidies** (like housing insulation) for single-parent households and survivors
- of domestic violence.

- **The strategy also mandates gender-sensitive indicators across four critical sectors threatened by climate shifts: agriculture, housing, public health, and tourism.**

- Budgeted measures include **providing specialized agricultural training and incentives for female farmers**, supporting women in launching agro-tourism enterprises to capitalize on extended summer seasons, and systematically monitoring rural water quality to safeguard public health.



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