CITIZEN'S BUDGET 2026
GENDER PERSPECTIVE

Budget Review for Bosnia and Herzegovina

KEY CONCEPTS

GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGETING

Treats the budget as an instrument for advancing equality and improving the effentiveness of public spending, respondng to different needs of women and men, as well as transforming social relations, not just as a technical act of resource allocation. This approach is being used to reform public financial management (PFM).

GENDER ASPECTS OF IMPACT

Links public resources with actual needs and opportunities, helping state authorities, as well as other relevant actiors, identify whether programs benefit women and men equaly and where gender inequality persists. Implementing gender budgeting is crucial to a country's economic growth, ranging from encouraging employment and reducing the unemployment rate, reducing the poverty rate, etc.

CITIZEN'S PERSPECTIVE

A gender-oriented Citizens' Budget emphasizes gender equality issues, showing how the budget affects women and men and which programs directly address gender inequalities, as a a simplified, visually oriented and understandable version of the official budget document.

GENDER INEQUALITY

Recognition in a society depends on the existence and provision of reliable and consistent gender-disaggregated data on various social issues, creating a process of comparing the expected with the achieved results from the implementation of budget resourses according to relevant gender criteria.

BASIC LEGAL FRAMEWORK

COVERING GENDER BUDGETTING

01 CONSTITUTION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, ARTICLE II/4

02 LAW ON GENDER EQUALITY OF BIH

03 PUBLIC FINANCE AND GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING (STATE LEVEL + FBIH BUDGET FRAMEWORK)

04 LAW ON PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION OF BIH

05 LAW ON CIVIL SERVICE BIH

06 ENTITY LAWS ON HEALTHCARE

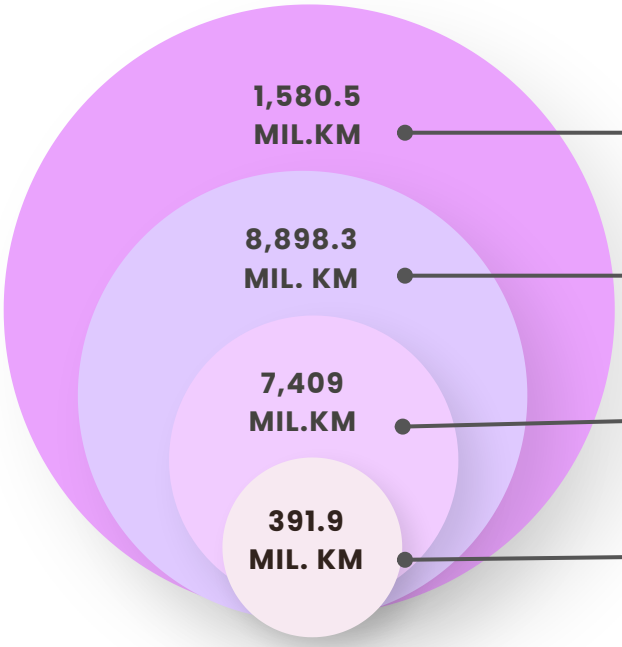
07 LAW ON THE BASICS OF SOCIAL PROTECTION OF FBIH AND RS

08 LAW ON PROTECTION FROM WORKPLACE HARASSMENT IN REPUBLICA SRPSKA

09 LAW ON THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF SELF-GOVERNANCE OF FBIH

10 ENTITY AND BRČKO DISTICT LABOUR LAWS

BUDGETS ACROSS BiH'S FOUR LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA BUDGET 2026

FEDERATION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA BUDGET 2026

REPUBLIKA SRPSKA BUDGET 2026

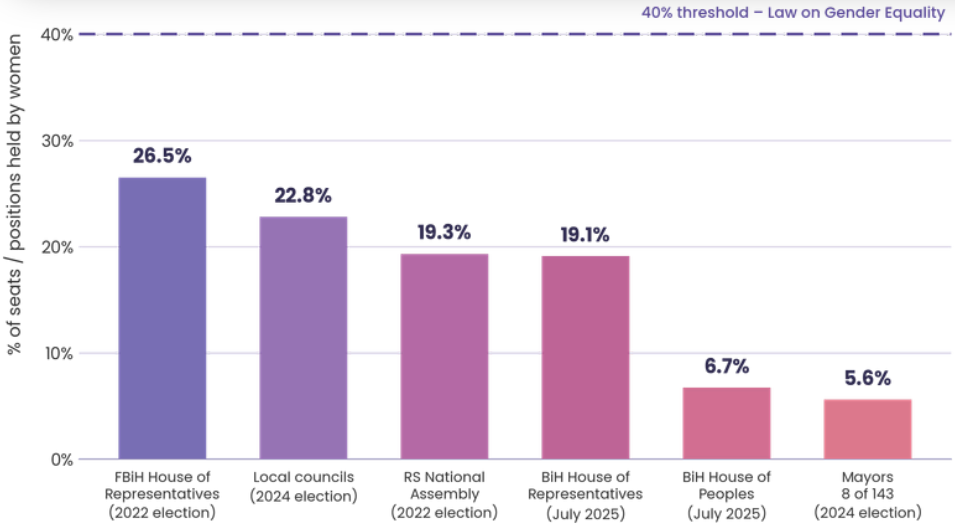
BRČKO DISTRICT BUDGET 2026

Gender-responsive budgeting is not standardised across all levels of government, and there is no mandatory gender impact assessment before laws and policies are adopted. BiH has no official figure for how much of its budgets serves gender equality.

Funding for gender equality is only about 0.05% of the budget at state level and in FBiH, and about 0.04% in Republika Srpska. This mostly covers gender institutions and NGO grants (UN estimate)

The Law on Gender Equality (Art. 24) obliges public bodies to mainstream gender, yet only about 13% of stakeholders consulted by the UN say it is applied satisfactorily. In FBiH, the budget execution law (Art. 37) requires gender-responsive budgeting in spending programmes for selected transfers.

WHO DECIDES THE BUDGET? WOMEN IN DECISION-MAKING



Women hold fewer than three in ten seats in every body shown, below the 40% threshold stuppulated in the Law on Gender Equality. The lowest shares are in the BiH House of Peoples and among mayors, so the 40% list quota has not produced equal representation.

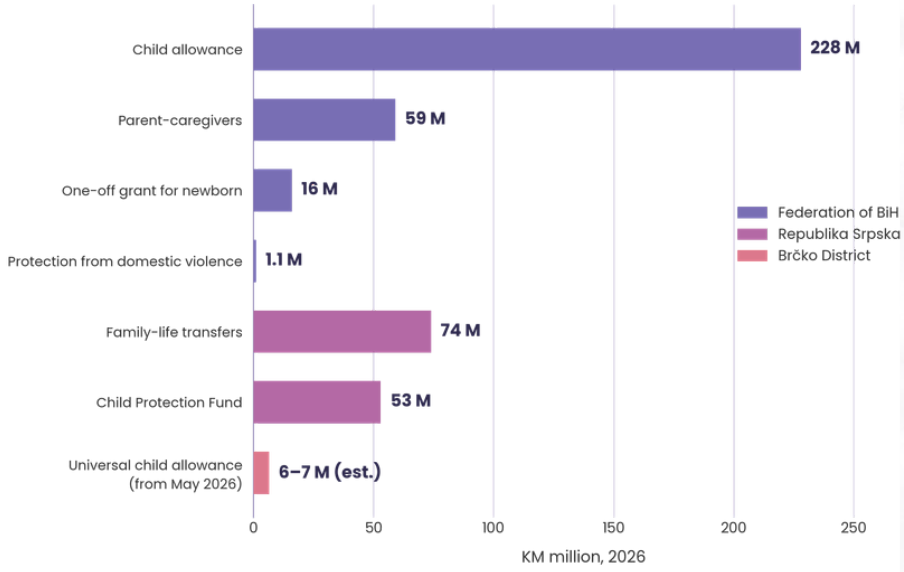
Women are better represented in public administration, at 42.4% of employees (2024) and 53.5% of decision-making posts (2023). Where budgets are adopted, however, the gap remains. Future policy could consider party reforms and transparent nomination procedures to bring more women into budget decisions.

Together, BiH's four levels of government manage budgets worth billions of BAM, yet funding for gender equality is only about 0.05% of them, and no system tracks how the rest affects women and men. Women hold fewer than three in ten seats in the legislatures shown above. Gender budgeting in BiH therefore depends largely on the capacity and goodwill of individual institutions, and is not yet a structural feature of public finance.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

Social protection is where budgets most visibly reach family life, care work and protection from violence.
Key institutions include:
- FBiH Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
- RS Ministry of Family, Youth and Sport and the Child Protection Fund
- Brčko District Social Protection Sub-department
- Gender institutions (state Agency and entity gender centres)

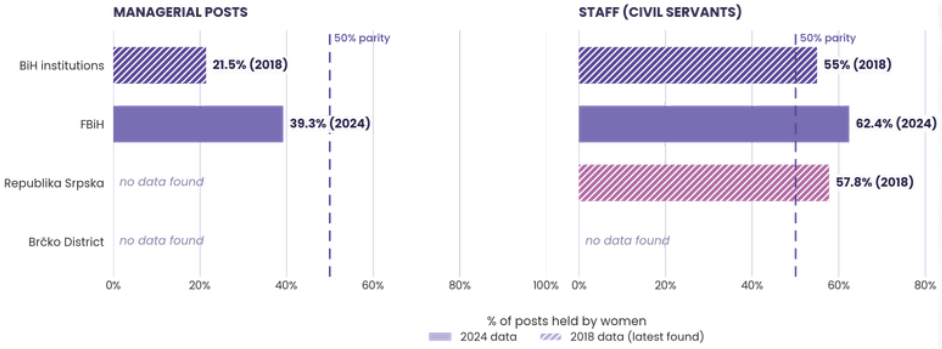
FBiH raised child allowance funding from about KM 50 M to 228 M; Brčko made it universal from May 2026. Support against domestic violence is far smaller: about KM 1.1 M in FBiH.



PUBLIC SERVICES

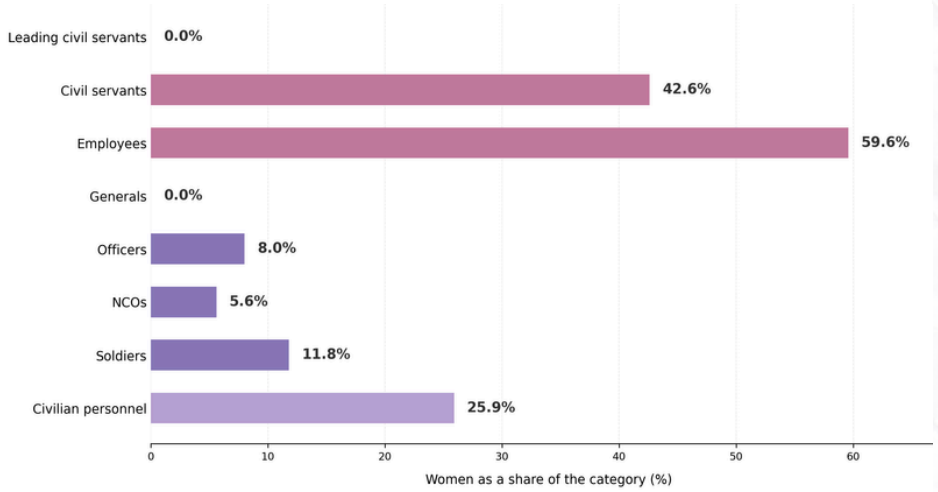
Public services finance the institutions that write laws, set budget rules and produce the statistics needed to judge whether public money reduces inequality. At state level this means Parliament, the Council of Ministers, the Ministry of Finance and Treasury, the Statistics Agency and the Agency for Gender Equality.
Women are the majority of staff but a minority of managers: 39% of managerial civil servants in FBiH (2024) and about one in five in state ministries (2018). No recent breakdown was found for RS or Brčko District.

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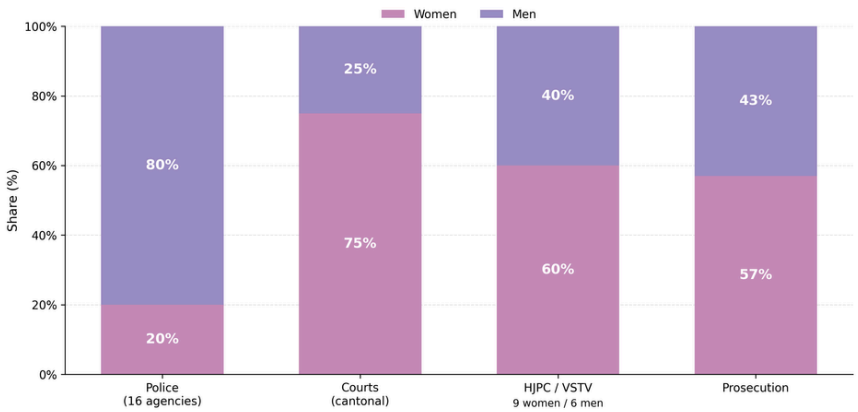
DEFENCE

Women remain underrepresented in the defence sector, particularly in senior military positions. In 2023, women accounted for around 11% of the Armed Forces workforce, while their representation among officers was 8.0% and among generals 0%. This indicates a significant gender gap as responsibility and rank increase, with women having limited representation in senior decision-making and leadership positions. The data highlight the importance of examining equal opportunities for women's recruitment, career progression and advancement within the defence sector.



PUBLIC ORDER & SAFETY

Women's representation varies significantly across the public order and safety sector. In 16 police agencies, women accounted for almost 20% of all employees. The judiciary presents a different picture: women make up 75% of judges in cantonal courts, 71% of judges in the Supreme Court of the Federation of BiH, and 57% of prosecutors and professional associates in the FBiH Prosecutor's Office. Women also hold 9 of 15 seats on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council (HJPC/VSTV). At the same time, several senior leadership positions remain held by men, including the President of the HJPC and the Chief Federal Prosecutor.
These figures show that gender equality in public order and safety is not uniform: women remain significantly underrepresented in policing, while they form a substantial majority in many parts of the judiciary. Gender-equality strategies and action plans have been introduced to support more systematic gender mainstreaming across the justice sector.



WHAT CHANGES WERE MADE IN THE BUDGET IN 2026?

FEDERATION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Programme budgeting + gender mainstreaming

A major step forward in 2026 is the introduction of programme budgeting at the Federation level. Gender equality has been incorporated into the new programme-budgeting process, with budget users required to integrate gender-equality elements into their financial requests. The new approach links programmes with objectives and performance indicators, creating a stronger basis for assessing how public spending affects women and men.

GENDER EQUALITY INTEGRATED INTO BUDGET REQUESTS

FEDERATION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Gender Impact Still Not Measurable

The 2026 FBiH budget has 92 of 116 programmes marked as gender-responsive, but none of the users provided an explanation of why they were considered gender-responsive, and most of those 92 programmes do not have indicators capable of measuring their impact on gender equality. .

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CHANGE IN FUNDING FOR DV CASES IN 2026

New Legal Protection Against Domestic Violencel

In 2025, FBiH adopted a new Law on Protection from Domestic Violence and Violence against Women. The law expands protection measures, introduces stronger coordination and monitoring mechanisms, and provides for specialized support services. In 2026, KM 1.1 million was allocated for implementation, including KM 100,000 for a free SOS telephone line

NEW ALLOCATIONS FOR PROTECTION AGAINST DV AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

HOW CAN CITIZENS PARTICIPATE MORE?



Citizens can play a more active role in shaping how public money is planned, allocated and spent. They can participate in public consultations on laws and policies through the BiH e-Consultation platform, where citizens and civil society organisations can provide comments directly to institutions. Citizens can also ask for clearer information about how budgets affect women and men, propose spending priorities that respond to different needs, and follow whether planned funds are actually spent and what results they achieve.

GENDER STATISTICS AND DATA

Bosnia and Herzegovina should strengthen the collection and publication of sex-disaggregated data to better identify gender gaps and inform public policies and budgets. Gender data should be regularly updated and used to set measurable objectives, allocate resources and monitor results. Particular attention should be given to areas such as employment, income, social protection, education, health and political participation.





DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Digital transformation should be inclusive and gender-responsive, ensuring equal access to digital services, skills and opportunities. Public institutions should expand digital skills programmes for women, girls and older people, improve accessibility, and ensure that digital public services remain easy to use for people with different levels of digital literacy.

CONSISTENT SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Social development should strengthen inclusive participation and equal access to services. Public institutions should build their capacity for gender-responsive budgeting while creating more opportunities for citizens, especially women and civil society organisations, to contribute through public hearings, participatory workshops and monitoring of budget implementation. This can help ensure that social policies and public spending respond to the different needs of communities.

