GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGETING:

Building Capacity for Gender-Responsive Climate Planning in municipality of Memaliaj, Albania



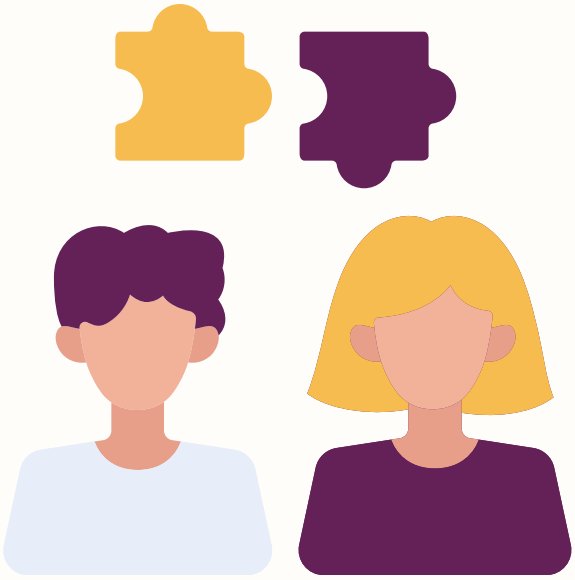
Overview of the issue

The lack of gender-responsive approaches in climate and environmental initiatives in the Municipality of Memaliaj was a primary problem. Women were largely underrepresented in decision-making processes and economic opportunities, particularly in tourism, and agriculture.

Most women held caregiving roles, and the local budget did not consider gender-specific needs in climate-related investments. As climate change exacerbates inequalities, the exclusion of women from decision-making increased the risk of further marginalization.

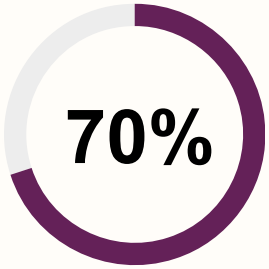
GRB analysis

Desk research of municipal budgets and environmental plans was conducted, alongside qualitative stakeholder consultations with municipal staff, schools, students, and SMEs.

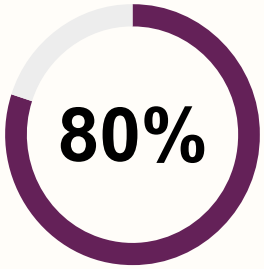


This multi-stakeholder approach provided both the qualitative and quantitative evidence necessary for the gender-responsive budgeting analysis. **The analysis and questionnaires revealed that awareness of climate and gender issues among the target groups was initially very low, and there was a noticeable hesitance to discuss these topics.**

Following the training sessions and the use of evaluation tools



of participants stated that their understanding of GRB had increased significantly,



reported that their capacity to integrate gender considerations into climate planning had improved

Recommendations

1. Utilizing 7 different standardized data collection templates covering topics such as **Climate Risk Exposure, Climate Budget Access, and Employment & Economic Participation** to gather consistent and sex-disaggregated data.

2. **Establishing Monitoring and Evaluation** (M&E) tools aligned with GRB standards to continuously assess the gender impacts of climate spending and help the municipality make evidence-based budget adjustments.

3. **Applying the Guideline on GRB in Climate Finance** for institutional use and continuously supporting the capacity of municipal staff and stakeholders through targeted training.

Advocacy Impact

As a direct result of the participatory training, guideline development, and cross-institutional advocacy efforts, the **Municipality of Memaliaj demonstrated a strong political commitment to integrating gender equality into local planning frameworks by publishing the Local Action Plan for Gender Equality 2026-2029 draft in January 2026.** Municipal representatives enhanced their capacity to apply GRB tools and standardized data templates in future policymaking. This initiative laid the institutional foundations for planning climate finance resources in a more transparent, evidence-based, and equitable manner that meets the differing needs of women and men. The initiative developed and introduced practical GRB instruments, including the **Guideline on Gender-Responsive Budgeting in Climate Finance, seven standardized sex-disaggregated data collection templates, and Monitoring & Evaluation tools**. These were accompanied by training sessions enabling municipal staff to apply gender-responsive planning, budgeting, monitoring, and evaluation within local climate policies.

Main Challenges

The process faced two main challenges during the data collection phase:

- **Low Initial Awareness:** Target groups (students, tourism operators, municipal staff) often perceived climate and gender issues as secondary or irrelevant to their daily lives.

- **Reluctance to Participate:** A consistent hesitance among participants to discuss gender, climate change, and budgeting complicated data gathering.

