

Gender Analysis in north Kosovo and concerned local authorities



INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
PROGRAMI PËR ZHVILLIM GJITHËPËRFSHIRËS
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1. Introduction

1.1 Background and Purpose

Gender Analysis in north Kosovo and concerned local authorities presents key findings of collection and analysis of sex disaggregated household, workplace and community data/information in the four Serbian municipalities in north of Kosovo. The analysis covers key areas of concern such as demography, labour market, local economy, health, education, politics, natural resources, infrastructure, safety etc. so as to gain insights into what resources are available in the targeted communities, and how women and men access to and benefit from these resources. It also includes an overview of public institutions and women's and men's access to their services.

The gender analysis is part of the comprehensive baseline assessment of the local governance environment in northern Kosovo.

The general purpose of the gender analysis specific to the north Kosovo is to highlight hierarchies of power, division of labour, social and cultural aspects (in institutions and in the community) in order to expose the manner in which gender relations will affect the baseline assessment, implementation and expected accomplishments of the Programme. The results of the analysis also aim to assist in setting gender baseline and targets as well as gender-responsive outcomes, outputs and indicators for monitoring progress over the course of the programme implementation, that are presented in a separate report "Gender Assessment of the Programme Proposal Fostering Inclusive Development and Good Governance in northern Kosovo."

More particularly, the gender analysis is meant to:

Community level

- Assess the activity profile in the community in municipality: Who does what? Who has what, incl. access and control of the resources, services and institutions of decision-making and the benefits from the development of the projects and programmes (tangible and less tangible resources such as land, capital, time, planning process, access to education, etc.)? Underline any specific roles relating to elderly women/men, single women/men young boys/girls etc. Highlight any particular prevailing attitudes of communities to women and girls and related conflict risk factors;
- Describe any actual barriers to access existing services, information and resources for women and men, and associated risks if barriers continue or increase;
- Analyze any influencing factors (past, present or in the future) that affect the situation. The factors may be political, economic, cultural etc. or constraints or opportunities that can impact women's participation and benefit;

Institution level

- Assess the composition of the municipality staff, decision-making positions, scope of activities etc. from the gender perspective;
- Assess the weight of the gender perspective in spatial planning documents and current service delivery at municipal level;

- Identify the existing services being provided by national and international partners to assist women and girls when it comes to planning, service delivery and local decision-making;
- Assess counterpart/partner capacity for gender-responsive planning, implementation and monitoring, and develop strategies to strengthen capacity.

1.2 Methodology

Data collection has included both primary and secondary sources. Individual face-to-face interviews and focus discussion groups were organized with citizens, local administration representatives, NGOs, international organizations, religious actors etc..

Data collection tools have been developed and key data providers identified. Considerable obstacles were experienced in accessing relevant data and information, in particularly data disaggregated by sex, age, location etc. due to the lack of census and statistics for the municipalities in north of Kosovo.

The analysis is structured around three key gender-sensitive elements:

- 1) **Community profile** -This part presents key relevant data about the municipality such as demography, ethnic composition, economy, politics, natural resources, infrastructure etc.
- 2) **Assets and control profile** - The key question addressed here is what assets women and men have to use as their strategies to improve their power, position and wellbeing. Assets may include knowledge, skills, professional experience, access to and use of different resources as well factors that influence the effective use of these assets (vulnerability context).
- 3) **Institutional profile** - The issues relate to the existence and functionality of local institutions when it comes to access and quality of public services. This part also includes an assessment of institutional gender capacities of municipalities.

2. Gender and sustainable cities

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a new global development framework, includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG 11 is focused on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. This means that sustainable cities provide for mobility, ensure safety and security, give access to resources, have accessible green and public space, and provide economic opportunities for all. In their work city administrations practice gender-responsive planning and budgeting. Working with gender-responsiveness requires high level of awareness, knowledge and skills for visioning, planning, formulating policies etc. that demonstrate capability for identifying and understanding as well as capacity for action to address gender inequalities.

Research and practical experience show that women and men, girls and boys are differently affected by the way human settlements develop and grow as well as how they are managed. Women are commonly more disadvantaged compared to men in terms of equal access to

employment and job opportunities, education, transport, asset ownership etc. In addition, they experience more limited mobility and domestic and public violence than men.

Gender inequalities and patriarchal gender roles often make women's work and added value invisible. Women's specific practical needs, expectations and strategic interests are rarely taken into consideration in the decision-making process and policy formulations. Women have also limited access to participation, decision-making and opportunity to access municipal services and exercise their rights. They are commonly underrepresented in political bodies.

This gender analysis provide basis for incorporating gender aspect into the Programme as well as the activities that need to be undertaken to address gender inequalities.

3. North of Kosovo

The findings presented in the following pages are based on a comprehensive assessment of data available primarily from the local administrations. Data was used also from other sources such as NGOs, international organizations etc. The key challenge during the process of data collection in the field was access to reliable data. The reason for this is the lack of census since 1991 and time constraints. In cases when data was available it was rarely disaggregated by sex. This poses a limitation of gaining a deeper insight into the situation of women and men, girls and boys to fully uncover gender inequalities in different areas of social life demonstrating where actions relevant for the Programme might be most needed.

This report presents the situation in each of the municipality separately. In the following section, some common key issues that all four municipalities share are presented. Women generally face limited access to and control of various types of productive and non-productive resources placing them at disadvantage in relation to men and maintaining their vulnerable position in areas of security at home and in public, economic dependency, reduced decision-making and accessing economic opportunities.

It is reported that demographic development varies among the municipalities; in some it is positive, while in others it is negative. Due to the lack of census we do not have precise number of women and men, girls and boys living in the targeted municipalities. Figures provided are estimations and are not sex disaggregated. Only one municipality (Zvecan) provided data on live-births, indicating that more baby girls are born than baby boys. This slight female advantage might get even bigger during childhood, owing to generally higher male than female mortality. Statistically, we know that women live longer than men and consequently, women outnumber men in older age groups.

No precise data is available on migration, but respondents indicate that women migrate more than men mainly due to prevailing social norms that require females moving to the male's household. However, respondents report that migration is chiefly motivated by economic and political factors. No precise data of number of women and men in different age groups is available.

Respondents report that marriage patterns have changed over the past three decades. Generally, women and men are marrying later. This may be a reflection of later entry into the

labour market, higher education level and greater independence of women. On the other side, it may also reflect the socio-economic difficulties that create obstacles for young couples to build a family. No data is available for rural women and as well as women and men in different minority communities e.g. Romas. The average age of becoming a parent is between 25-27 years for women and around 28 for men. Women become parents younger than men. No data was available about child marriage.

At least three municipalities (Zvecan, Zubin Potok and Leposavic) have large communities of internally displaced persons. Data disaggregated by sex and age was not available. The biggest community of IDPs is in Zvecan with 25% of the total population.

Although all municipalities have substantial natural resources local economy remains underdeveloped. Entrepreneurship level varies. Consequently, unemployment is a big socio-economic challenge that women and men face in all four municipalities. Women are more unemployed than men and experience greater level of economic dependency. This has severe impact on their opportunities to income-generating economic activities.

Informal economic activities are widespread. Women make a greater share among informal work, mainly within agriculture, picking of berries and herbs and sales of fresh fruits and vegetables and home-made products. Although such work gives women opportunities to generate some well-needed cash it also puts women in vulnerable position of not being protected by the system and thus not having access to certain rights such as health care and pensions.

Poverty is prevalent and social assistance provided is not sufficient to meet the needs of all low-income persons and/or families. This has greater impact on women who are economically dependent, older women and men and persons with disabilities.

Division of labour is traditional, with women doing most of the household and child-care work. Slight indication of change among younger couples is visible in particular related to fathers being more engaged into child-care.

Traditional social norms are very strong in relation to the ownership of land and property, commonly inherited by men and registered in men's names.

Mobility of women is more limited than those of men, in particular of rural women. This is mainly due to underdeveloped transportation network and the problem of affordability due to high transportation prices and low incomes. Women drive less and have more limited access to cars.

Women are underrepresented in politics and they report that they do not feel welcome nor attracted to get engaged into politics. They are generally not engaged into other types of community work. The only exception is the non-governmental sector that provides opportunities for women to get involved and influence the community life.

It is reported that corruption such as nepotism and cronyism are widespread practices and that it is not possible to get a job without political and personal connections. This may include paying bribes. According to the recently released Audit Report¹ all four municipalities face

¹Kosovo Sever portal, http://kossev.info/strana/arkiva/revizorski_izvestaji_12899

severe integrity challenges related to public procurement, transparency of spending public funds, flaws in organizational systems and procedures (e.g. lack of internal auditing) etc.

Infrastructure is rather solid in all municipalities with women and men having access to electricity, water (occasionally with reduced access) and sewage system. None of the municipalities have sewage collectors and all sewage is dispatched into the rivers.

In general, respondents consider public safety as good. However, there is fear and insecurity present among the respondents on their future within the context of Kosovo state. Women report the existence of gender-based violence, in particular within the household. There is not safe house in any of the municipality. According to the statistics provided by the Regional Police Department North Mitrovica women are victims of domestic violence to much greater extent than men. In case of murders men kill women and not vice versa. Men commit suicide much more than women. In the period 2013-2016 there were 436 crimes committed. There were seven murders committed by males, with five males and two females victims. 24 persons committed suicide, 20 males and 4 females; three incidents based on ethnic hatred with males only as suspected perpetrators and eight male victims; and seven cases of domestic violence, with six males and one female suspected and one male and six females as victims. The total number of committed crimes in 2016 was 102. The most common crimes are: light physical injuries, destruction or damage to property, assault, theft, illegal hunting, heavy theft, causing general danger, suspicious death. Among 102 crimes there were one rape, one sexual attack, one harassment, one sexual abuse of minor and one case of domestic violence. In 2016 there were 61 suspected, 60 males and one female, and 98 victims, 78 males and 20 females.

The report's main findings per municipality are presented below.

4. Municipality of Zvecan

4.1 Community profile



Geographic location of Zvecan

Location and demographics

Located in the north of Kosovo the municipality of Zvecan covers an area of 122.4 km² and includes the town of Zvecan and 35 villages². Surrounding hills and the flat land along the river Ibar make 60% of urban and 40% of rural part of the municipality³.

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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_18348

