

Gender Fastfacts



MATTERS OF FACT

Under the gender equality law two acts were endorsed: a Council of Ministers Decision on the Regulation of Functioning of the National Council of Gender Equality and a Prime Minister's Order establishing the National Council of Gender Equality and its composition.

Training of 82 judges and prosecutors on Gender Equality Law requirements as well as new responsibilities on the issue of gender equality pursuant to Stabilization and Association Agreement (SSA) with EU to increase women's access to justice.

355 employees of the regional administration of State Social Services and social service units of regional communes and municipalities have received training on the implementation of gender equality and domestic violence law.

145 civil servants of five municipalities and their surrounding communes had the opportunity to discuss on issues of gender equality mainstreaming, and domestic violence through a UNDP supported training, in cooperation with the Training Institute of Public Administration.



Photo: Workshop on domestic violence for social service providers from the Municipality of Durrës, December 2009.

Project Description

The objective of the Project, *Support Implementation of the National Strategy for Gender Equality and Domestic Violence (NSGE-DV) – Advancing Democratic Governance in Albania* is the coordinated implementation of the National Strategy on Gender Equality and Domestic Violence (2007-2010) and associated legislation.

Both the Law "On Measures Against Violence in Family Relations", passed by the Albanian legislature in 2007 and associated national strategy (NSGE-DV) stress the need for an improved coordinated response; to support, protect and provide rehabilitation and employment opportunities to victims of domestic violence; to empower the judiciary in taking protection measures against domestic violence; and to provide quick, affordable, and accessible social services.

The project is directly providing considerable and broad-based technical support to ensure the effective implementation of the NSGE-DV and the recent advances in the country's legal framework.

The project is part of the UN Joint Programme on Gender Equality that partners UNDP, UNIFEM, UNFPA and UNICEF. Advancing gender equality is a core principle of the One UN Programme in Albania and is viewed as a cross-cutting issue throughout all UN programmes, supporting national aspirations to achieve Millennium Development Goal 3, Gender Equality.

UNDP leads in the area of combating violence against women; supports the development and strengthening of institutional mechanisms and policy measures pertaining to the gender equality law and domestic violence law; and supports grassroots and national initiatives around women and elections.



Photo: Memorandum of Understanding signing between social service providers, Municipality of Durrës, as part of the implementation of the Domestic Violence Law.

Results

UNDP and UNICEF supported the National Institute of Statistics, INSTAT to produce a national sample survey on gender based violence. It revealed that 56% of women had experienced some form of physical, sexual, psychological and emotional violence and abuse, while 57.7% of children reported being physically battered by a family member. The data collected represents a solid basis for future policy formulation and a concrete means to measure progress towards the eradication of domestic violence in the country.

To strengthen the capacities of civil servants to implement policy objectives and legislative requirements, UNDP has produced reference manuals for professionals, namely a manual for social workers on gender to ensure the implementation of the gender equality and domestic violence law, and a manual for medical and legal personnel on evidence taking in gender based violence or domestic violence cases.

UNDP developed an operation structure for a community coordination response to domestic violence to serve as a guide to the practical implementation and establishment of referral systems around the country. UNDP is piloting its implementation in Kamza, Durrës and Korça.

The overall goal is to extend the model for community response to other municipalities across Albania following formal agreement by the Government.

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Raising awareness to change attitudes

Two local organizations “Center for Children Today” and Albanian Women Headed Household Association were selected and contracted to conduct education and awareness campaign Domestic Violence in the districts of Korca and Tirana.

Education and awareness campaign on domestic violence has helped to expose the phenomenon of domestic abuse in Albanian society, increasing awareness in the community and fostering a better understanding of community members individual rights. This campaign involved children and youth encouraging them to act as advocates against the existing patriarchal mentality.



Photo: Pupils paintings during the awareness campaign in secondary schools, Korca district.



Photo: During education and awareness raising campaign in high schools, Tirana district.

Pupils of 10 schools in two districts learned more about gender equality and human rights. They are now more aware of their own rights and the protection offered by domestic violence legislation.

Several promotional materials, such as TV spots, a documentary, leaflets and posters contributed towards sensitizing Albanian society on issues of gender equality and domestic violence.

Over 300 students of three universities in Tirana, Vlora and Shkodra participated in awareness raising activities in cooperation with the Central Elections Committee (CEC), on the introduction of the 30% quota of representation that aims to ensure for the first time in Albania a certain balance of participation of men and women in decision-making.