

SIDE EVENT

Financing for gender equality for efficient COVID-19 recovery: Action Coalitions as a model for groundbreaking actions

11 MARCH 2021

12:15-13:45 p.m. CET

ONLINE EVENT

Photo: UN Women/Rena Effendi

NOTE ABOUT THE SIDE EVENT:

Building on over-ten-years of experience on gender responsive budgeting in the UNECE region, this side event is co-hosted by Ministry of Finance of Albania, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia. The key objective of the event are to discuss how financing would prevent reproducing the gender inequalities that pre-existed the pandemic and to advocate for gender-sensitive COVID-19 recovery, planning and investment in the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region. The side event will bring together government representatives, civil society and international development partners to share knowledge, experience and exchange good practices.

BACKGROUND:

The Generation Equality Forum convened by UN Women, France and Mexico will be implemented in 2021 and will set-up the Action Coalitions to accelerate progress, increase investments in gender equality and make concrete change. The Action Coalitions bring together governments, women's, feminist and youth-led organizations and movements, international organizations, and the private sector to: a) catalyze collective action; b) spark inter-generational conversations globally and locally; c) increase public & private investment to achieve gender equality and; d) deliver concrete, game changing results that improve the lives of girls and women. Action Coalitions

will contribute to achieving tangible results on gender equality during the UN Decade of Action (2020-2030) to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals.

One of the targets of the SDG 5 on Gender Equality requires, adopting and strengthening sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels. In order to achieve this target, Nations with Systems to Track and Make Public Allocations for Gender Equity and Women's Empowerment (indicator 5c1) have a central role. The framework provided by the SDG 5c1 encourages the adoption of budgetary decisions that are informed by the requirements of gender equality. This is particularly true in times of crises where existing vulnerabilities are even more accentuated.

UN Women, with the support of Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), in cooperation with ministries of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo¹, North Macedonia and Serbia, undertook the analysis of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on gender equality in respective countries. The findings of the analysis presented in the report "Budget Choices in Pandemic Times: advancing gender equality or holding it back?" reveal positive steps and shortcomings in guaranteeing gender equality through budgetary decisions during a demanding period. This analysis will be officially published by the end of March 2021. Findings of the analysis will be discussed during the event.

¹ For UN Women, references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of UN Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). For the European Union, this designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UN Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

OBJECTIVES:

- Provide an opportunity for exchange and learning on how to use financing as an accelerator for gender equality during pandemic and post-pandemic times.
- Contribute to the regional and global discussions on how to use cross-sectoral analysis and multi-stakeholder approaches to reduce the adverse effects of crises on the lives of women and girls.
- Discuss how the Action Coalitions could strengthen accountability of countries and territories to enforce the gender equality commitments through planning and financing their actions.

PARTICIPANTS

Representatives of governments including entities responsible for gender equality, planning and budgeting, NGOs, gender advocates, experts from international organisations and UN entities.



Illustration: Federcap

AGENDA

Time	Activity
Welcoming Remarks	
12:15 CET	<i>Gentian Opre, Director of Budget Analysis and Programming Department, Ministry of Finance and Economy of Albania</i>
12:25 CET	<i>Blerta Cela, Deputy Regional Director, UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia</i>
12:30 CET	<i>Carolina Wennerholm, Head of the Unit for Western Balkans and Turkey, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)</i>
Importance of Financing for Gender Equality for Efficient COVID-19 Recovery	
12:35 CET	<p>Moderator: <i>Ermira Lubani, Gender Responsive Budgeting Programme Specialist (GRB), UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia</i></p> <p><i>Why financing gender responsive measures at local level is vital in COVID-19 recovery?</i> <i>Blagica Petreski, Finance Think, North Macedonia</i></p> <p><i>Octopus model service delivery during pandemic in Serbia</i> <i>Jelena Ruzic, President of the Women's Association of Kolubara District, Serbia</i></p> <p><i>Gender mainstreaming in strategic documents of agriculture and entrepreneurship in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) before and after COVID-19</i> <i>Lamija Krndzija, Gender Expert, BiH</i></p> <p><i>Advancing a Feminist Economic Recovery Plan: Canadian Experience</i> <i>Anjum Sultana, Youth Activist, Canada</i></p>
Questions & Answers. Overall discussion	
13:15 CET	Moderator: <i>Ermira Lubani, GRB Programme Specialist, UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia</i>
Closing Remarks	
13:40 CET	<i>Gentian Opre, Director of Budget Analysis and Programming Department, Ministry of Finance and Economy of Albania</i>