



Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosova-Republic of Kosovo
Qeveria -Vlada-Government
Ministria e Drejtësisë/Ministarstvo Pravde/Ministry of Justice

NATIONAL STRATEGY
ON PROTECTION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

2022 – 2026

January 2022

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AGE	Agency for Gender Equality
AoJ	Academy of Justice
AFLA	Agency for Free Legal Aid
EU	European Union
GE	Gender Equality
DV	Domestic Violence
VAW	Violence against Women
GREVIO	Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence
OPIK	Ombudsperson Institution of Kosovo
KIPA	Kosovo Institute for Public Administration
NIHR	National Institutions for Human Rights
NIPHK	National Institute of Public Health of Kosovo
IFM	Institute of Forensic Medicine
CoE	Council of Europe
KJC	Kosovo Judicial Council
KPC	Kosovo Prosecutorial Council
LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex
LPDV	Law on Protection from Domestic Violence
MLGA	Ministry of Local Government Administration
MEST	Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation
MAFRD	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MFLT	Ministry of Finance, Labor and Transfers
MCYS	Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports
MIAPA	Ministry of Internal Affairs and Public Administration
MLSW	Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare
MoH	Ministry of Health
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
UN	United Nations
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
MDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
KP	Kosovo Police
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures for Protection from Domestic Violence
VTC	Vocational Training Center
CSW	Center for Social Work
REC	Regional Employment Center
KCS	Kosovo Correctional Service
PO	Protection Order
OEP	Order for Emergency Protection
OTEP	Order for Temporary Emergent Protection

VAMO

Victims Advocacy and Mediation Office

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Domestic violence and violence against women is among the most prevalent forms of violence and breach of fundamental human rights and freedoms. The Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo, amended in 2020, recognizes the direct application of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), an instrument for the prevention of violence against women and domestic violence, as well as for the protection of victims. The protection of life and living with dignity and without violence, guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo, is regulated within the Law Nor. 03/L-182 on Protection from Domestic Violence.

The Criminal Code of the Republic of Kosovo envisages domestic violence as criminal offence and recognizes physical, psychological, economic and sexual violence within a family relationship. Istanbul Convention defines “violence against women” as “... a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women and shall mean all acts of gender-based violence that result in, or are likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life...”¹ Whereas “domestic violence” is defined as “... all acts of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence that occur within the family or domestic unit or between former or current spouses or partners, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim...”² and “gender-based violence against women” as “... violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately...”³

Violence against women is a manifestation of the historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to the domination and discrimination of women by men and have hindered the full advancement of women. It constitutes one of the essential social mechanisms by which women are forced to be in a position of dependence compared to men. Women and girls are often exposed to violence, such as domestic violence, sexual harassment, rape, forced marriage, crimes committed in the name of so-called “honour” and genital mutilation, which consists a criminal offence, turning thus into the main obstacle to achieving equality between men and women. Implementation of de jure and de facto equality between men and women is a key element in preventing violence against women.

Women and girls are more exposed than men to a higher risk of gender-based violence. However, although domestic violence affects women disproportionately, men are also victims of domestic violence⁴, as is the fact that children are victims of domestic violence, including cases as witnesses to this form of violence. Domestic violence against children is widespread

¹ Article 3/a of Istanbul Convention. See: <https://rm.coe.int/168046246b>.

² Ibid point b.

³ Ibid point b.

⁴ The Istanbul Convention recognizes the fact that although most victims of domestic violence are women, men can also be victims of domestic violence

and studies have found a link between domestic violence against women and physical abuse of children, as well as the trauma that witnessing violence at home causes to children⁵.

Domestic violence in the Republic of Kosovo remains one of the most serious problems faced by society. Various local and international reports establish the presence of domestic violence within family relationships, as well as an acceptability of the use of violence as a means of discipline and education, acknowledging submission to “authority”. A survey published in 2019 by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) with data collected during 2018, found that 57% of women surveyed in the Republic of Kosovo had suffered psychological, physical or sexual violence since the age of 15 years (more specifically, 53% of women had suffered psychological violence, 9% physical violence and 4% sexual violence from an intimate partner). Many women in Kosovo (48%) still considered such violence, especially domestic violence, a private matter that often goes unnoticed, never being reported⁶. The OSCE study found that women who had lower levels of education, were financially dependent, or those who lived in rural areas were more likely to report experiencing domestic violence. While the Multiple Indicators Survey for Kosovo (MICS) and MICS with Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Kosovo, conducted in 2019-2020 by the Kosovo Agency of Statistics (KAS) as part of the global MICS programme, highlighted, among others that in the age group 15-49 years, 25% of girls/young women/women and 57% of girls/young women/women of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities as well as 12% of boys/young men/men and 26% boys/young men/men from the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities in Kosovo justify physical violence against their wives for one of the following reasons: leaving home without being told; neglecting children; rejecting to have sex with him; burning food⁷. Other studies conducted by civil society organizations show that in Kosovo, in recent years, there has been an increasing focus on femicide in the context of domestic violence, due to the fact that from 2017 to 2020, at least 74 women were killed⁸. 62% of Kosovars have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. 21% of Kosovars think that “Sometimes it is okay for a man to hit his wife”⁹. These studies also show that in general, there are improvements in the knowledge and attitudes of institutions responsible for addressing domestic violence and gender-based violence against women compared to 2017. However, there is insufficient understanding of the various forms of violence against women, gender-based violence, especially sexual violence. The victim keeps being blamed. Efforts to “reconcile” the couple “to preserve the family” and breaches

⁵ Explanatory Report on the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence CETS 210, 11.05.2011, p.1.

⁶ “A Survey on Well-being and Safety of Women in Kosovo”, OSCE 2019. See: <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/e/4/439790.pdf>. It should be supplemented by recent reports from the Women's Network regarding research into addressing domestic violence. See: <https://womensnetwork.org/en/publications/nga-ligjet-ne-vepra/>

⁷ See: <https://mics.unicef.org/surveys>.

⁸ Data presented in the report prepared by the Kosovo Women’s Network “From laws to deeds”, May 2021. See: <https://Womensnetwork.org/ep-content/uploads/2021/05/KËN-GBV-Report-ALB-final.pdf>

⁹ Data from the publication of the Kosovo Women’s Network “Violence is not hidden within the walls”, July 2019. See: https://Womensnetwork.org/ep-content/uploads/2019/07/BOOKLET_SHQIP.pdf.

of confidentiality remain prevalent in dealing with cases of domestic violence and violence against women.

This unacceptable situation requires a systematic and coordinated response by the institutions of the Republic of Kosovo through building policies in the area of prevention, protection, reintegration and empowering of survivors of domestic violence and gender-based violence as well as the punishment and rehabilitation through psycho-social treatment of perpetrators of these forms of violence.

The Government of Kosovo has prioritized the fight against domestic violence and violence against women. This is also reflected in all the steps taken to improve the legal framework and national policies, which aim to be increasingly harmonized with international ones; as well as further steps planned to prevent and address domestic violence, violence against women and gender-based violence.

The Government of the Republic of Kosovo in its four-year program has prioritized the fight against domestic violence and violence against women. Within its scope, the Ministry of Justice has defined the prevention and addressing of domestic violence and violence against women as one of the five strategic objectives. As a result, national policies are envisaged to improve the existing legal framework, further implementation of this legal framework and, among others, undertake the initiative to draft this Strategy and Action Plan.

This National Strategy of the Republic of Kosovo on Protection from Domestic Violence and Violence against Women 2022 - 2026¹⁰, as well as its action plan, were prepared in support of Article 10, paragraph 1 and 2 and Article 11 of Law No. 06/L-113 on Organization and Functioning of the State Administration and Independent Agencies (OG No. 7/01 March 2019); Article 8, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph 1.4 of the Regulation (GRK) - No. 02/2021 on Areas of Administrative Responsibility of the Office of the Prime Minister and Ministries (30.03.2021), Article 11 and 13 of the Administrative Instruction No. 7/2018 on Planning and Drafting of Strategic Documents and Action Plans, as well as Decision of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo No. 4/83 dated 11.07.2012. Working Group convened based on Decision No. 99, dated 11. 06.2021 of the Minister of Justice for this purpose was chaired by the National Coordinator against domestic violence and consisted of 21, members representing responsible institutions.

Conceived as a follow-up and logically related to the previous National Strategy on Protection against Domestic Violence and its Action Plan 2016 - 2020, this Strategy contains actions and measures aiming to further advance the achievements from the evaluation of the implementation of the previous strategy, and also provide protection from domestic violence

¹⁰ Unlike the previous Strategy on Protection against Domestic Violence 2016 - 2020, the concept of “violence against women” is added in this Strategy, in all the text and actions provided, in accordance and harmonization with the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention). Therefore, the title of the prepared document is: “National Strategy on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women 2022 – 2026”.

and violence against women in accordance with the standards of ratified international instruments. An important place here belongs to the Istanbul Convention. This Convention became part of the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo with an amendment on 25 September 2020¹¹. Therefore, the actions envisaged in the Action Plan for the implementation of this Strategy 2022-2026 strongly support the implementation of the articles, provisions and standards of this Convention.

In accordance with the Istanbul Convention, this Strategy will address domestic violence (as defined in Article 3, i.e. physical, sexual, psychological, economic violence), as well as: psychological violence (Article 33), threatening behaviour/persecution (Article 34), physical violence (Article 35), sexual violence, including rape (Article 36), forced marriage (Article 37), female genital mutilation (Article 38), abortion and forced sterilization (Article 39), and sexual harassment (Article 40).

As instructed in the actions to be taken by the states parties, which have signed and ratified the Istanbul Convention, for its most effective implementation, the actions and measures compliant to the Conventional pillars should be undertaken: Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Integrated Policies¹². The actions and measures envisaged in the National Strategy on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women 2022 - 2026, are based on those provided for by the Convention as an obligation for states parties and for convenience are organized in four main pillars:

- I. Prevention and identification of violence
- II. Advancing and harmonizing public policies with international standards
- III. Institutional strengthening in prevention and addressing of domestic violence
- IV. Providing general services and specialized support services to victims.

The National Strategy on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women 2022 - 2026, is based on the vision:

A society where everyone is safe and equal and lives without the fear or threat of domestic violence and violence against women, aiming at preventing and not tolerating violence, protecting, reintegrating and empowering victims, and holding perpetrators accountable.

This vision is further elaborated in the mission statement presented below.

By 2026, the Government of Kosovo together with the responsible institutions and supporting parties will:

¹¹ Council of Europe, “Kosovo National Assembly * decides to implement the Istanbul Convention”, 2020. See: <https://www.coe.int/en/ëeb/istanbul-convention/-/the-national-assembly-of-kosovo-decides-to-apply-the-istanbul-convention>

¹² See: <https://rm.coe.int/168064d3f6>

- take responsibility for prioritizing all cases of domestic violence and violence against women;
- provide sufficient human, financial and infrastructural resources to combat domestic violence and violence against women;
- provide access to quality integrated services;
- guarantee justice for victims and survivors;
- provide reintegration and empowerment of victims/survivors of domestic violence and violence against women;
- punish, re-socialize and rehabilitate perpetrators of violence;
- raise the awareness of the whole society against domestic violence and violence against women.

In order to successfully fulfil this mission and to advance towards the vision of this Strategy, the interventions are foreseen according to four strategic objectives, specific objectives as well as key actions that are expected to be taken. These are explained in more detail in Chapter V of this document.

All of the above, together with the relevant activities and indicators to measure the progress of the implementation of this strategy, the financial resources that should be made available, the host and partner institutions, as well as the products and references in other national and international documents, are presented to complete in the action plan matrix, in Chapter IX of this document.

II. INTRODUCTION

The drafting of the National Strategy on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women and its Action Plan for the period 2022 - 2026 is based on the Program of the Government of Kosovo¹³/Strategic Operational Plan of the Ministry of Justice 2021-2025 where **“Preventing and addressing domestic violence, violence against women and gender-based violence”** is one of the five key priorities, providing as a special activity drafting of this Strategy and the Action Plan. Also, the Rule of Law Strategy 2021-2026¹⁴ recommends that it is necessary to take initiatives to address domestic violence.

The National Strategy on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women 2022-2026 aims at enhancing the effort to guarantee living with dignity and violence-free. This fundamental right is aimed to be achieved through the activities envisaged by this Strategy in the area of prevention, protection, reintegration and empowering of survivors of domestic violence and violence against women, punishment and rehabilitation of perpetrators of these forms of violence as well as strengthening cooperation and institutional interaction.

¹³ See: <https://kryeministri.rks-gov.net/ep-content/uploads/2021/05/Programi-i-Qeverise-se-Kosoves-2021-2025.pdf>

¹⁴ Approved on 11.08.2021. See: <https://md.rks-gov.net/desk/inc/media/6DC1CBD5-0DF1-46AE-9D1A-78C96146C7D0.pdf>

III. METHODOLOGY

The National Strategy on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women 2022 - 2026 and its action plan were drafted based on Decision No. 99, dated 11. 06.2021 of the Minister of Justice. This Strategy and its action plan were prepared pursuant to Article 10, paragraph 1 and 2 and Article 11 of Law No. 06/L113 on the Organization and Functioning of the State Administration and Independent Agencies (OG No. 7/ 01 March 2019); Article 8, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph 1.4 of the Regulation (GRK) – No. 02/2021 on the Areas of Administrative Responsibility of the Office of the Prime Minister and Ministries (30.03.2021), Article 11 and 13 of the Administrative Instruction No. 7/2018 on Planning and Drafting Strategic Documents and Action Plans, as well as Decision of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo No. 4/83 dated 11.07.2012.

The Working Group established for this purpose was chaired by the National Coordinator against Domestic Violence and consisted of the following 21 members, representatives of the responsible institutions:

- 1.1 **Nita Shala**, National Coordinator against Domestic Violence; Deputy Minister of Justice, Chairperson;
- 1.2 **Edi Gusia**, Agency for Gender Equality, Office of the Prime Minister, Deputy Chairperson;
- 1.3 **Nazlie Bala**, Cabinet of the Minister of Justice;
- 1.4 **Vedat Sogojeva**, Office for Strategic Planning, Office of the Prime Minister, member;
- 1.5 **Florentina Beqiri**, Human Rights Unit, Ministry of Justice, member;
- 1.6 **Selviqe Elezaj**, Policy Coordination Division, DEIPC, Ministry of Justice, member;
- 1.7 **Albulena Uka**, Ministry of Justice, member
- 1.8 **Adile Shaqiri**, Ministry of Finance, Labor and Transfers, member;
- 1.9 **Azize Daku**, Ministry of Health, member;
- 1.10 **Lorik Lipoveci**, Ministry of Internal Affairs, member;
- 1.11 **Merita Jonuzi**, Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, member;
- 1.12 **Gëzim Bislimi**, Ministry of Finance, Labor and Transfers, member;
- 1.13 **Dorotea Deshishku**, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, member;
- 1.14 **Fatime Dermaku**, Kosovo Judicial Council, member;
- 1.15 **Luljeta Hetemi**, Academy of Justice, member;
- 1.16 **Iirjana Collaku Tafa**, Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, member;
- 1.17 **Arsim Shala**, Kosovo Police, member;
- 1.18 **Basri Kastrati**, Victims Advocacy and Assistance Office, SP, member;
- 1.19 **Nazife Jonuzi**, Coalition of Shelters, member;
- 1.20 **Fjolla Sojeva**, Budget and Finance Division, Ministry of Justice, member.
- 1.21 **Luljeta Ibishi Ferizi**, Ministry of Local Government Administration, member.

The work of the Working Group in drafting the Strategy was also supported by the UN Women Office in Kosovo, with the financial assistance of the European Union in the framework of the regional programme on elimination of violence against women 'Implementing Norms, Changing Minds, and two experts engaged Monika Kocaqi and Donat Rexha.

The Strategy and the Action Plan were drafted through a combined methodology, where research on existing reports and studies was further supplemented with updated data made available by representatives of the member institutions of the Working Group for the preparation of this strategy.

The monitoring and evaluation reports on the implementation of the previous National Strategy on Protection against Domestic Violence 2016-2020 also served as a good source of information, especially in agreeing on envisaged and unimplemented actions in that strategy, which were considered as relevant to be carried forward into this new strategy.

After a brief analysis of the current situation, strategic objectives, specific objectives, concrete activities and actions have been defined, which have been costed. The Action Plan from a structural aspect has been drafted in accordance with the administrative instruction of the Strategic Planning Office (SPO) and the ongoing sub-instructions of this office, through the representative of this office in the working group.

The drafting process of the strategy was divided into three phases:

- I) The first phase was characterized by the generic situation analysis, as well as conducting of a series of consultative meetings, in which the responsible institutions and relevant stakeholders who work at the central and local level were involved;
- II) During the second phase, the Working Group responsible for drafting the strategy analyzed the applicable strategic documents, various national and international reports and assessments, especially the monitoring reports on the implementation of the “National Strategy of the Republic of Kosovo on Protection against Domestic Violence and Action Plan 2016 – 2020”¹⁵, Government Program of the Republic of Kosovo 2021–2025¹⁶, Istanbul Convention¹⁷, United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women (CEDAW)¹⁸, The Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action¹⁹, Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda²⁰, as well as other sectoral strategies. Based on this detailed analysis, strategic and specific objectives were defined, the fulfilment of which will contribute to the achievement of national goals set according to the goals for sustainable development in Kosovo (SDGs), etc.
- III) While, in the third phase, the document underwent the process of numerous public consultations. Furthermore, the document underwent an extensive

¹⁵ National Strategy of the Republic of Kosovo on Protection against Domestic Violence and Action Plan 2016 – 2020”, May 2016, see: <https://md.rks-gov.net/desk/inc/media/52BA49FC-80C2-4172-A2F7-9E83D078F3E7.pdf>

¹⁶ Governing Program of the Republic of Kosovo 2021–2025, May 2021

¹⁷ Explanatory Report on the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence CETS 210, 11.05.2011, See: <https://rm.coe.int/168046246b>

¹⁸ See: <https://hrrp.eu/alb/docs/CEDAW-a.pdf>

¹⁹ See: https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/swd_2020_284_en_final.pdf

²⁰ See: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals> AND

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>

process of special consultations with all stakeholders, respectively 11 consultations with over 200 stakeholders, aiming at identifying and addressing all issues related to specific stakeholders. These meetings took place throughout the preliminary and public consultation phase. Inter-institutional Working Group reviewed and incorporated the inputs received from these consultations and according to the criteria set out in Administrative Instruction No. 02/2012 was processed for approval.

The final version of the National Strategy on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women 2022 - 2026 and its Action Plan were forwarded for approval to the Government of Kosovo, in January 2022.

IV. BACKGROUND

Domestic violence is a worldwide problem and remains one of the most prevalent forms of violence, often referred to as the “closed-door issue”. While violence against women and girls takes different forms and dimensions and in many cases is also justified under the pretext of the “code of honour and shame”.²¹

This violence means any act of gender-based violence that causes or is likely to cause physical, psychological, economic, sexual harm. It includes threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty that may occur in public or private life. This definition applies, inter alia, to violence that occurs within the family or home, including physical and mental aggression, emotional and physical abuse, sexual abuse, incest, ‘honor’ crimes, sexual and genital mutilation and other harmful practices for women, e.g. forced marriages.²²

A significant number of women are victims of domestic violence - recurring abuse of all forms of this violence, cited above, which causes fear, despair and often damage to a woman’s health. Domestic violence against women is a serious blow to human dignity and serves as an obstacle for women to enjoy their fundamental rights. This attack on human dignity is carried out under conditions of silence, and sometimes of general indifference, inside homes, throughout Europe. Domestic violence against women is a result of a situation where women have less power than men, and this leads to serious discrimination of women and girls in family and society. Although statistics only provide proven cases of domestic violence, the figures are still concerning. They confirm the fact that domestic violence against women, whether physical, sexual, psychological or as a result of economic dependence, does not recognize geographical, age, ethnic differences and affects all types of family relationships and social environment. Gender-based violence affects not only the direct victims, but the entire community. The high cost of gender-based violence is a serious burden on society, governments, individuals, organizations and businesses - that is why this violence has gone beyond being a private problem and has become a public problem, solving of which constitutes an urgent need.²³

Raising awareness of the various forms of violence against women and domestic violence is an important element in preventing violence, because increased awareness is the first step towards changing attitudes and behaviours that promote or allow different forms of violence against women. To this end, the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) requires states parties to take comprehensive awareness-raising initiatives as part of a series of measures aimed at preventing violence against women²⁴.

²¹ While according to the Istanbul Convention, Article 12/5 states that "... Parties shall ensure that culture, custom, religion, tradition or *so-called "honour"* shall not be considered as justification for any acts of violence covered by the scope of this Convention..."

²² Source: Annex to Recommendation Rec (2002) 5 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the protection of women against violence. See: https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectID=09000016805e2612.

²³ Adapted from: “Guide for parliamentarians. Joint parliaments to combat violence against women”, prepared by the Secretariat of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men/Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. See: https://www.coe.int/t/p/pace/campaign/stopviolence/Source/handbook_al.pdf

²⁴ Article 13 of the Istanbul Convention. See also: <https://rm.coe.int/article-13-of-the-istanbul-convention-albanian-/168097f2e5>.

It is very important that domestic violence is analysed in the context of a country's traditions, culture and mentality. If we analyse why domestic violence and violence against women occur, we identify a combination of several motivating factors and risk factors related to individual characteristics of the person who commits violence or who experiences it, with motivating factors and risk factors related to the general atmosphere, such as the behaviours and mentalities elaborated by society. Among the individual characteristics of the person we can mention motivating factors such as: alcoholism, jealousy, unemployment, poverty, stress, sexual impotence, various inferiority complexes within the couple, intellectual, professional and educational competition within the couple, professional disability, unwanted pregnancy, witnessing or being raped during childhood, mental health problems, etc. However, these individual characteristics affect the frequency of violence and its escalation, but are not the only causes of violence. The roots of violence lie in the patriarchal mentality and harmful effects of some traditional or customary practices that continue to be kept alive by society. Here are influenced by a number of other motivating factors such as: mentality and cultural tradition reserves the woman an inferior position compared to the man; shortcomings in legislation and non-implementation of existing laws, failure to protect women inside and outside the walls of the home; the socio-economic conditions of women are unequal and at lower levels compared to those of men, because there is a deeper economic dependence of women, which means less chances for independent economic and social life; low number of women participating in decision-making; high unemployment rate, especially among women; involvement of men in criminal activities that increase daily stress and make women subject of discharge of this stress; involvement of men in gambling activities; increased number of people who have the idea of getting rich rapidly, etc.

In Kosovo, as in the region and in the world, violence against women and domestic violence are present and constitute a pan-social concern. The roots of these forms of violence are nurtured by gender and structural inequalities, reflected in: political and economic participation; access to property, income and services; participation in the economy; as well as in standards and quality of life. Women do not participate on an equal footing with men in decision-making, employment, economics, and many other areas. They do not have the same access as men in the labour market, support services, loans, etc.

According to data from the Kosovo Police, 1915 cases of domestic violence with 1978 victims (of which 1593 women) and 26 victims belonging to the age group 0-18 years were treated in 2019. For 2020, 2069 cases of domestic violence were treated with 2101 victims (of which 1636 women) and 121 victims belonging to the age group 0-18 years. For the first half of 2021 (January - June), a total of 1122 cases of domestic violence were treated with 1137 victims (of which 878 women) and 85 victims belonging to the age group 0-18 years²⁵.

The Victims Assistance and Advocacy office dealt with a total of 1353 cases of domestic violence in 2019, 1524 cases in 2020 and for the first half of 2021 it dealt with 844 cases of domestic violence²⁶.

Mobile offices for Free Legal Aid as a form of organization of legal services, have been established in 15 municipalities in 2021 and 1039 people have requested free legal aid in

²⁵ For more detailed information please refer to Annex 1 of this Strategy

²⁶ For more detailed information please refer to Annex 2 of this Strategy

these offices during this year. For 2020, free legal aid mobile offices were established in 12 municipalities and 1803 people had requested free legal aid in these offices during this year. In 2019, the free legal aid mobile offices provided legal aid in 13 municipalities and 1679 people had requested free legal aid during that year²⁷.

During 2018, the OSCE collected and processed in this survey a series of data which were then published in 2019 under “Survey on the Well-being and Safety of Women in Kosovo”²⁸. According to this survey:

- Over half (or 54%) of all women say they have experienced psychological, physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner since the age of 15, and nearly three in ten women (or 29%) say they have experienced sexual harassment.
- One in seven women (or 14%) claim to have experienced physical or sexual violence from a partner or non-partner (this does not include psychological violence).
- Women who participated in the survey and qualitative research expressed their concern regarding violence against women in Kosovo. Nearly two-thirds of women surveyed (or 64%) say violence against women occurs frequently. Thus, more than half of women (or 54%) state to have experienced violence from an intimate partner, mainly psychological violence, but 9% of women report that they have also experienced physical violence.
- Social norms and attitudes regarding the role that women should play in society and the widespread acceptance of gender inequality set the context for this violence. They instil even more inequality in a society where men dominate at home, at work and in the public sphere. More than half (or 57%) of women aged 18-74 in Kosovo believe that their social circle thinks that: "A good wife obeys her husband even if she has a different opinion."
- A quarter (or 26%) of women believe that their social circle thinks that: “A woman has an obligation to have sex with her husband even if she does not want to.”
- More than one-third of women (or 35%) agree that violence is provoked by victims and women exaggerate allegations of rape or abuse (32%).
- Despite the high percentage of women who have revealed that they have been victims of violence perpetrated by their current or previous partner, most of the women have not contacted any service even in the most serious cases of violence perpetrated by their current partner (92%), previous partner (81%) or non-partner (72%).
- In particular, only 2% of women reported to the police the most serious incident of violence perpetrated by their current partner and 3% to social services, and almost none reported having contacted any of the women's shelters or any other specialized service.
- The same is confirmed also by the fact that almost half of the women surveyed (or 48%) believe that domestic violence is a “private matter” that should be kept as such within the family.

²⁷ Data made available by the MLGA, in the course of drafting this Strategy, September 2021.

²⁸ Survey conducted by OSCE Kosovo, 2019. See: <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/e/4/439790.pdf>

- Nearly one in five women (or 18%) who have had a previous partner say they have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from a previous partner, compared to 9% of those who currently have a partner who says they have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by current partners. 8% of women surveyed say they have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from people who do not have partners.
- Persecution has affected one in twelve women (or 8%).
- Nearly three in ten women (or 29%) aged 18-74 have experienced sexual harassment since the age of 15.

The Multiple Indicators Survey for Kosovo (MICS) and MICS with Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Kosovo conducted in 2019-2020 by the Kosovo Agency of Statistics (KAS) as part of the global MICS program²⁹, identified, among others:

- in the age group 15-49 years, 25% of girls/young women/women and 57% of girls/young women/women of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities as well as 12% of boys/young men/men and 26% boys/young men/men from the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities in Kosovo justify physical violence against their wives for one of the following reasons: leaving home without being told; neglecting children; rejecting to have sex with him; burning food.
- 1 in 3 young women aged 20-24 living in Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities were married or cohabiting before the age of 18;
- only 1 in 4 adolescents aged 10-14 in Kosovo are disciplined by non-violent methods;
- about 1 in 10 girls/young women aged 15–19 in the general population and those living in Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities reported experiencing gender-based discrimination and harassment;
- 1 in 8 girls/young women and 1 in 6 boys/young men aged 15-19 who live in Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities experienced discrimination and harassment based on ethnicity or immigration origin.

Gender inequalities are rooted in patriarchal norms. A 2018 study in Kosovo showed that traditional attitudes still prevail. Nearly seven out of ten men part of the study (69.5%) agreed that the husband “should have the final say on decisions in his home”. A similar percentage (72.8%) believe that the woman’s most important role is to take care of her home and family and 72.5% of men believe that the woman should take care of her children. As reported by men, the division of household chores is done by gender, with women performing tasks traditionally performed by women in most cases, such as washing clothes (performed in 88% of cases by women), cooking (80% women), and cleaning (71% women)³⁰.

Data on the situation and patriarchal and justifying attitudes towards domestic violence and violence against women are also provided in the publications prepared by the Kosovo civil

²⁹ Supported by UNICEF. See: <https://mics.unicef.org/surveys>

³⁰ “Men’s Perspective on Gender Equality in Kosovo: Key Findings from the International Survey Men and Gender Equality (IMAGES)” (Prishtina, OSCE Mission, 2018). See: <https://promundoglobal.org/ep-content/uploads/2018/07/IMAGES-Kosovo-English.pdf>.

society organizations. Thus, an awareness brochure published in 2019³¹ “Violence is not hidden within the walls”³² provides information on the situation as well as evidence of women and girls who have experienced domestic violence:

- 21% of the citizens still say that “Sometimes it is okay for a man to hit his wife”;
- One in three citizens still think that: “The child is disciplined by slapping”;
- One in four citizens are still not aware that “It is not an excuse to beat a woman only because you are unemployed” or that “Coerced sexual intercourse is violence, even if you are married”;
- 62% of the citizens experienced domestic violence in their lifetime.

Currently the minimum age for marriage is 18, however courts can allow individuals up to the age of 16 to marry if they conclude that the person has reached the necessary physical and psychological maturity. Young married girls have little power over their husbands and fathers-in-law, so they are extremely vulnerable to domestic violence, abuse and abandonment.

Recognition, acceptance and prioritization of cases of domestic violence and violence against women, undoubtedly requires a much greater awareness of women, men, young women, young men, girls and boys in Kosovo, as well as the entire central and local institutions responsible for the risks, the consequences and costs brought to the country the lack of such a well-coordinated response.

The actions taken by the Governments of Kosovo speak of an improvement of the legal framework and policies for protection from domestic violence and violence against women. Thus, for example, in recent years, the Criminal Code of Kosovo was amended in 2019, to include criminal offences in accordance with the Istanbul Convention, such as domestic violence, sexual harassment and mutilation of the female genitals.³³ The Criminal Code already recognizes domestic violence as physical, psychological, sexual or economic violence or ill-treatment within a family relationship.

The Law on Protection from Domestic Violence similarly defines these types of violence. This law has been in the process of the amendment since 2020, in order to better meet the identified needs and to harmonize them with the Istanbul Convention.

The first National Strategy of the Republic of Kosovo on Protection against Domestic Violence and the Action Plan for the period 2016-2020 was approved in December 2016³⁴. The strategic objectives set out in that National Strategy aimed at: (i) Reducing prejudiced attitudes and behaviours that support domestic violence, through information, education, training and ongoing awareness of professionals, communities and society as a whole; (ii) Providing comprehensive and efficient institutional mechanisms for rapid response to cases of domestic violence, as well as responsible inter-institutional cooperation, between

³¹ Brochure: “Violence is not hidden within the walls, July 2019. See: https://Womensnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/BOOKLET_SHQIP.pdf

³² See: https://womensnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/BOOKLET_SHQIP.pdf

³³ Criminal Code of the Republic of Kosovo, 2019. See: <https://md.rks-gov.net/desk/inc/media/6A2D4377-6AE1-4530-909F-3FB2680CD1EC.pdf>

³⁴ Republic of Kosovo, Government, Decision No. 09/125, on 30 December 2016. See: http://www.kryeministri-ks.net/repository/docs/Decisions_of_the_125-to_the_Government.pdf.

stakeholders, at the central and local level, for protection and managing these cases; (iii) Improving the legal infrastructure and increasing the efficiency of handling cases of domestic violence, with a focus on the needs of the victim, as well as adequate punishment of the perpetrator; (iv) Enabling throughout the territory of Kosovo, access to new and existing services, efficient and sustainable for the rehabilitation and long-term reintegration of victims and rehabilitation of perpetrators of domestic violence.

During the period to which this Strategy coincided, the Ministry of Justice conducted two monitoring reports on its implementation (namely in 2018 and 2019)³⁵. Both reports highlight the progress in the implementation of a large part of the activities foreseen in the action plan, as well as the difficulties and challenges encountered, which were mostly related to the implementation of the following activities: (i) Ongoing training of on annual basis and certification of professional staff (such as: teachers, principals, pedagogues, psychologists, school boards, parents, officials from the Municipal Directorate of Education) with a focus on domestic violence, with specified topics and approved modules; (ii) Reviewing the Kosovo Curriculum Framework for Pre-University Education, and including in it standardized information on domestic violence, as well as providing information on domestic violence, working groups for drafting subject curricula - categorized according to all groups, on which this violence can be exercised (women, children, the elderly, PWDs, LGBT, non-majority communities, etc.), types of violence and where cases of violence can be reported; (iii) Periodic national studies on the phenomenon, size, profile of perpetrators of domestic violence/victims of domestic violence, etc.; (iv) Developing the annual statistical bulletins on the number of cases reported and handled in a multidisciplinary manner; (v) Establishing a subcategory to fund the Office for Gender Equality at the municipal level and support the functioning of Coordination Mechanisms; (vi) Inclusion of victims of domestic violence in existing adult education programs; (vii) Opening a shelter for boys and men victims of domestic violence; (viii) Training for employment, health, education, social services and other officers on a gender sensitive approach; (ix) Establishing the victim counselling centers; (x) Economic empowerment of victims through subsidies from relevant ministries (e.g. for victims of violence wishing to start small businesses, or exemption from tuition fees, etc.); (xi) Introduction of special programs for victims of domestic violence, as a subcategory of the main budget line of each ministry/institution; (xii) Providing facilities (Fiscal Package) for businesses that employ vulnerable categories of society, including victims of domestic violence; (xiii) Commitment of the Kosovo Probation Service to monitor the rehabilitation and reintegration of perpetrators.

Whereas a report published in 2021³⁶ by a Civil Society Organization, which among other things indicates the progress in implementing the measures and activities provided in the National Strategy on Protection against Domestic Violence 2016 - 2020, by the end 2020, provides for the challenges and unfulfilled activities, as follows:

- Improving service standards for victims/survivors of domestic violence;

³⁵ Made available by the Ministry of Justice of Kosovo, in the course of the work for drafting this Strategy.

³⁶ Kosovo Women's Network "From Laws to Deeds" (2021). See <https://Womensnetwork.org/sq/publications/nga-ligjet-ne-vepra/>

- Establishing a sub-category to fund the Office for Gender Equality at the municipal level and supporting the functioning of the Coordination Mechanisms;
- Adapting the advocacy services, in order to be accessible, even for groups with special needs (such as persons with disabilities, LGBT, non-majority communities - providing services in their own language, etc.), in accordance and with improved and approved standards based on international ones;
- Increasing the resources and staff of the Office of the National Coordinator against Domestic Violence, who in their job description should have specific responsibilities for supporting the implementation and monitoring of the National Strategy on Protection against Domestic Violence;
- Designating a working group of professionals (including NGOs with experience in working with domestic violence) to harmonize the legal basis with international standards and existing studies, as well as to draft a guide to punishment policies, including a rather severe punishment policy for recidivists;
- Effective application of the statement of damage (aiming at the realization of compensation by the defendant in criminal proceedings);
- Reviewing duties, responsibilities and coordination of procedures of each responsible institution (police, judiciary, victim advocate, prosecution office) in protection of victims of domestic violence;
- Opening a shelter for boys and men victims of domestic violence;
- Training of the staff of the existing shelters in order to be ready to provide quality services, according to different categories of victims of domestic violence, also for LGBT, RAE community and other non-majority communities, etc.;
- Introduction of special programs for victims of domestic violence, as a subcategory of the main budget line for each ministry/institution;
- Using as shelters the facilities owned by the municipalities or by the Government, in accordance with Article 284 (4) of the Criminal Procedure Code for confiscated assets including facilities that can be allocated for use, both for social housing and shelter;
- Providing facilities (Fiscal Package) for businesses that employ vulnerable categories of society, including victims of domestic violence;
- Opening rehabilitation programs and creating adequate infrastructure to work with perpetrators of domestic violence, mandatory to be followed by them in accordance with the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence;
- Commitment of the Kosovo Probation Service to pursue the rehabilitation and reintegration of perpetrators.

The Working Group on drafting the National Strategy on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women 2022 - 2026 has further analysed and taken into account the difficulties and challenges identified by these monitoring reports, translating

them into measures and actions for implementation, as part of the action plan of the new strategy.

The mere existence of a national legal framework, strategies, policies and action plans, or international conventions applicable in Kosovo is not enough to improve the situation and reduce domestic violence and violence against women.

The application of protection measures expressed in law must be accompanied by effective inter-institutional coordination that enables the planning of adequate resources, the provision of quality services, the establishment of necessary criteria and standards and the monitoring of their implementation. All of these should go hand in hand with the provision of quality and adequate services, tailored to the needs of certain groups of victims/survivors of domestic violence and violence against women, services that should provide protection, reintegration and sustainable empowerment. It is necessary to punish the perpetrators of violence, taking into account the aggravating circumstances of the acts they commit. At the same time, their psycho-social treatment during the execution of the sentence and their involvement in adequate rehabilitation programs is also a necessity. Combined with the education and awareness of the whole society, to know, to protect and to know how they can denounce violence against women and domestic violence, or what support is given to them, these steps lead to the improvement of the situation and the reduction of attitudes and behaviours that justify violence.

It is necessary to emphasize that during the implementation of the foreseen measures and actions, the focus should be on all groups in the society, including women, girls, men and boys, giving priority to women and girls from rural areas, to those with disabilities and special needs, from ethnic minorities, LGBTI +, the elderly, single mothers, daughters-mothers, migrants and asylum seekers, etc

V. LEGAL BASIS AND CURRENT MECHANISMS

The preparation of the National Strategy on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women 2022 – 2026 and its action plan is based on a set of important constitutional documents³⁷ such as:

- Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo adopted by Kosovo Assembly on 15.06.2008
- Criminal Code of Kosovo, 06/L-074, dated 14.01.2019
- Juvenile Justice Code 03-L193, dated 20.08.2010
- Criminal Procedure Code No. 04/L-123, dated 28.12.2012, amended and supplemented by Law No. 06/L-091 dated 04.07.2019 and Law No. 08/L-002, dated 18.06.2021
- Law on Kosovo Police Inspectorate 2008/03-L-036, dated 16.11.2010
- Law on Kosovo Police No. 04/L-076, 19.03.2012
- Law on State Prosecutor No. 03/L-225, supplemented and amended by Law No. 05/L-034, dated 30.06.2015 and Law No. 06/L-025, dated 19.04.2018
- Law on Labour No. 03/L-212, 01.12. 2010
- Law on Protection against Discrimination No. 05/L-021, dated 26.06.2015.

³⁷ The order of the laws in the list above is random and not based on the importance of each Code or law in addressing the issue of domestic violence and violence against women.

- Law on Managing Sequestered or Confiscated Assets No. 05/L-049, dated 14.04.2016
- Law on Vocational Training, Rehabilitation and Employment of People with Disabilities No. 03-L-019, dated 25.01.2009
- Law on Pre-University Education in the Republic of Kosovo No. 04/L-032, dated 16.09.2011
- Law on Gender Equality No. 05/L-020, dated 20.06.2015
- Family Law of Kosovo No. 2004/32 dated 01.09.2006, amended and supplemented by Law 06/L-077, dated 17.01.2019.
- Law on Emergency Health Care No. 05/L-024, dated 21.11.2016.
- Law on Protection of Personal Data No. 06/L-082, dated 25.02.2016
- Law on Protection against Domestic Violence 03-L-182, dated 10.08.2010, (in the process of amendment).
- Law on Crime Victim Compensation No. 05/L-036, dated 30.06.2015.
- Law on Local Self-Government No. 03/L-040, dated 04.06.2008.
- Law No. 04/L-218 on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Protecting Victims of Trafficking, dated 04.09.2013.
- Law No. 04/L-015 on Witness Protection, dated 01.09.2011.
- Law No. 2004/26 on Heritage of Kosovo, supplemented by law No. 06/L-008 on Amending and Supplementing Law no. 2004/26 on Heritage of Kosovo, dated 18.12.2018.
- Law No. 06/L-084 on Child Protection, dated 17.07.2019
- Law on Mediation, 03/L-057 dated 20.08.2018
- Law on Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors No. 02/L-128, dated 15.08.2008
- Law on Public Peace and Order 03/L-142, dated 29.10.2009
- Law on Health Bi, 04/L-125, dated 07.05.2013

- Law on Social and Family Services No. 02/L-17, dated 01.05.2007, amended and supplemented by Law No. 02/L-17, dated 05.04.2012.
- Law No. 03/L-110, dated 6 November 2008 on Termination of Pregnancy, promulgated by Decision of the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo No. 03-V-081, dated 22 January 2009
- Law No. 02/L-76, dated 01.05.2008 on Reproductive Health (under revision)
- National Development Strategy 2016-2021 (NDS)³⁸
- Kosovo Program for the Implementation of the Stabilization and Association Agreement between Kosovo and the European Union (2017-2021)³⁹
- Sectoral Strategy of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare 2018-2022⁴⁰
- Strategy for the Inclusion of Roma and Egyptian Communities in Kosovo Society 2017-2021⁴¹
- Sectoral Health Strategy 2017-2021⁴²
- Kosovo Program for Gender Equality 2020 – 2024, approved by Decision No. 01/34 dated 23.05.2020⁴³
- Administrative Instruction on Determining the Place and Way of Psychosocial Treatment of Perpetrators of Domestic Violence, QRK-12/2012, dated 06.11.2012
- Administrative Instruction on Mandatory Medical Treatment of Perpetrators of Domestic Violence from Addiction to Alcoholism and Psychotropic Substances, MSH-02/2013, dated 15.02.2013
- Administrative Instruction on Licensing of Social and Family Service Providers in professional level, MPMS-03/2020-UA, dated 31.12.2020
- Admini
- strative Instruction on Licensing of Non-Governmental Organizations and Private Legal Entities Providing Social and Family Services, MPMS-02/2020-AI, dated 31.12.2020, etc.

Institutional Mechanisms

1. Inter-Ministerial Coordination Group against Domestic Violence. In 2012, the Government of Kosovo established (by Decision No. 04/83 dated 11 July 2012) an Inter-Ministerial Coordination Group against Domestic Violence. The Group is chaired by the National Coordinator against Domestic Violence within the Ministry of Justice and it is sub-chaired by the Agency for Gender Equality. Official members of the Group include the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ministry of Finance, Labour and Transfers, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Kosovo Police and Kosovo Agency of Statistics. The State

³⁸ See: https://kryeministri.rks-gov.net/ep-content/uploads/docs/Strategjia_Kombetare_per_Zhvillim_2016-2021_Shqip.pdf

³⁹ See: <https://www.kuvendikosoves.org/shq/procesi-i-integrimit-ne-bashkimin-evropian/>

⁴⁰ See: <https://mpms.rks-gov.net/epdm-package/strategjia-sektoriale-2018-2022/>

⁴¹ See: <https://www.rcc.int/romaintegration2020/files/admin/docs/a8e1293c6955519e788ae28d84fb11a4.pdf>

⁴² See: <https://kryeministri-ks.net/documents/strategjia-sektoriale-e-shendetesise-2017-2021/>

⁴³ See: <https://abgj.rks-gov.net/assets/cms/uploads/files/ABGJ%20Programi%20i%20Kosov%20C3%ABs%20p%20C3%ABr%20Barazi%20Gjinore%202020-2024.pdf>

Prosecutor's Office, Kosovo Judicial Council, Kosovo Judicial Institute and the Shelter Coalition serve as observers and experts.

2. National Coordinator against Domestic Violence. Based on Decision No. 04/83 dated 11 July 2012, the Deputy Minister of Justice holds the position of National Coordinator against Domestic Violence (NCDV), while the Agency for Gender Equality holds the position of Deputy Chair. The NCDV should oversee the implementation of the National Strategy on Protection against Domestic Violence at the national level; coordinate measures and policies related to domestic violence; oversee the database on domestic violence cases; and coordinate the work of the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Group on Domestic Violence. The NCDV also prepares monitoring and evaluation reports for the National Strategy on Protection against Domestic Violence

3. Agency for Gender Equality. Established in 2005 under the Law on Gender Equality, the Agency for Gender Equality (AGE) operates within the Office of the Prime Minister. It has the task of raising awareness and promoting the equal participation of men and women in political, economic, social and cultural life. It also monitors the implementation of various laws, acts and provisions by relevant institutions. AGE supports the network of Gender Equality Officers in municipalities and ministries, and they should report to AGE on their efforts in addressing domestic violence and violence against women. AGE is a key institution engaged in various working groups that draft laws, policies and programs for various forms of gender-based violence. As mentioned, AGE serves as the Deputy Chair of the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Group against Domestic Violence. AGE has led many awareness campaigns on gender-based violence, including those related to sexual harassment and domestic violence. AGE consults and cooperates very closely with women's rights organizations, including shelters, on all legal and policy reforms, as well as efforts to raise awareness on addressing gender-based violence.

4. Municipal response to domestic violence and violence against women (Coordination Mechanisms). Following decentralization, municipalities play an important role in managing the inter-institutional response to domestic violence and violence against women. Municipalities manage health, education, training, employment and social services. These are financed mainly through budget transfers from the general budget of Kosovo. Municipalities have a specific responsibility to establish regional, inter-municipal partnerships for the identification, referral, housing, rehabilitation and empowerment of victims of domestic violence and violence against women, in cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Finance, Labour and Transfers. For this purpose, Coordination Mechanisms are established at the municipal level which should cooperate to address domestic violence as well as violence against women and to manage specific cases, according to the legal framework. Members of the Coordination Mechanisms include Gender Equality Officers, Kosovo Police, Judges, Centers for Social Work, Victim Advocates, Municipal Education Directorates, Employment Offices, Civil Society Organizations including shelters and, in some municipalities, women members of Municipal Assembly. The establishment of Coordination Mechanisms in all municipalities of Kosovo has not been implemented yet.

5. Kosovo Police. Kosovo Police in most cases is the first contact for the victim of domestic violence or other forms of violence against women. The police are usually called when a case of domestic violence or violence against women has recently occurred or when it is unavoidable. Therefore, the primary task of the police is to investigate the case and protect the victim. Kosovo Police officers as the first ordinary responders have an obligation to provide information to victims, guide them through the process and notify other stakeholders. Immediate police intervention includes conducting a proper assessment of the risk of the situation, assessing the potential for ongoing violence and for necessary services, as well as obtaining evidence. When the police immediately intervene at the scene, in accordance with the intervention procedures for the safety of life of persons (victim, children and other family members who may have been present or who live in the same apartment where the incident of violence is taking place), as well as pursuant to the relevant legislation, should also inspect and, if any, confiscate any weapons it finds, whether legally possesses or not, by the perpetrator of the violence. After conducting the risk assessment, the police have an obligation to protect victims and to inform them of their rights, which may include informing them of the issuance of an Interim Emergency Protection Order and liaising with other stakeholders to provide psychological support, legal aid, shelter and other forms of assistance as needed. The police should have an adequate protection plan for the victim once the victim is safe. Police should also accompany victims to their homes to get their belongings if required. Every police unit must ensure that it has sufficient human and technical resources to combat domestic violence and violence against women.

From the assessments carried out by civil society organizations regarding the implementation of the obligations of the institutions responsible for dealing with cases of domestic violence, regarding the Kosovo Police, it is evident that: Kosovo Police officers who respond to domestic violence are more aware of their duties and the way of handling such cases, compared to their knowledge and level of awareness in 2017. This has been influenced by the inclusion of domestic violence as a criminal offense. Officers have recurrently identified physical, psychological, and economic violence as forms of gender-based violence. Officers have also recognized new criminal offenses in the CPC such as sexual harassment, female genital mutilation and prosecution. Officers, however, tended to confuse gender-based violence with domestic violence and have less knowledge on sexual assault and sexual harassment. It is concerning that some officers still had attitudes that resembled in blaming the victim. In general, the police officers interviewed knew that they should investigate ex officio cases when they suspect that a criminal offense involving gender-based violence has been committed, even if the victim withdraws the testimony. In practice, however, exceptions occur. Officers still seem inclined to remove non-perpetrator victims from shared settlements. Also, police do not always conduct comprehensive risk assessments to ensure proper victim protection⁴⁴.

⁴⁴ Kosovo Women's Network "From Laws to Deeds", May 2021. See: <https://Womensnetwork.org/ep-content/uploads/2021/05/KĚN-GBV-Report-ALB-final.pdf>

6. Police Inspectorate of Kosovo. The mission of the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo is to provide, through the exercise of its activity, a responsible, democratic and transparent police service, in accordance with applicable law and required standards. The Police Inspectorate/Investigation Department has an obligation to investigate cases of police officers who fail to perform their duties properly in assisting victims of crime, including victims of domestic violence and violence against women. The role of this unit in assisting victims of domestic violence and violence against women comes to effect when an act of violence is committed by a Kosovo police officer, or when a Kosovo Police officer fails to perform his or her duties in protecting and supporting a victim of domestic violence or violence against women, as provided for by applicable law. For this reason, this unit will not have as frequent contact with victims as other stakeholders will. However, this unit has a huge responsibility to protect victims from perpetrators of domestic violence and violence against women, as well as from violations of the law by the police officers themselves. Members of the police inspectorate should take on the role of police officer and provide information to victims, guide them through the process, and also notify the other stakeholders

7. Victims Advocate/Victims Advocacy and Assistance Office. Victim Advocates are authorized legal representatives of victims of crime and represent the victim before the prosecution office and courts. They instruct and advise on the initiation of proceedings for the ordering the protective measures and represent victims in the treatment of such measures before civil courts. Victims Advocates also represent victims throughout criminal proceedings. Victims Advocates assist victims in filing victim compensation claims and referring them to the compensation program, setting priority categories to which victims of domestic violence, trafficking in human beings, child abuse, abuse, murder, and other victims of crime are provided with legal services. In order for victims to have easier access from the moment of victimization until the end of the court proceedings, Victims Advocates, in close cooperation with justice institutions, provide free professional services for drafting acts, requests, complaints to help victims to be better represented before the judiciary in accordance with the positive law in Kosovo, respecting the confidentiality of all victims who have suffered all forms of crime, as well as providing legal and moral support. Victims Advocates meet with victims after being notified by the State Prosecutor following the police response to the reported case of domestic violence or violence against women. This contact from the beginning with the victim allows the Victims Advocates to establish a relationship with the victim, which lasts even during her contact with other institutional mechanisms. It is the responsibility of the Victims Advocate to ensure that the victim understands the services that can be provided by the State and how he or she can receive them.

Victims Advocate also works closely with other institutions such as law enforcement agencies, CSWs, the Institute of Forensic Medicine, governmental and non-governmental organizations to ensure the provision of professional services to all victims of crime. Victims Advocates implement the strategy and decisions of the Victims Advocacy and Assistance Office (VAAO) and the Chief State Prosecutor, by reporting timely on the work done.

Victims Advocacy and Assistance Office (VAAO) also has a Helpline Operator, initially supported by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). The Helpline works with operators who are engaged 24 hours a day and with a public and toll-free number, to enable victims and the public a confidential mechanism for reporting various

criminal offences of abuse, for informing victims and other related persons of their rights, providing the necessary information for existing services and existing numbers. In 2019, a total of 795 calls were received in the Helpline, in 2020 a total of 650 calls were received and in the first half of 2021, a total of 120 new calls were received.

All services from VAAO are provided throughout the territory of the Republic of Kosovo without distinction. The VAAO has 7 regional offices located in the Basic Prosecution Offices. There are currently 24 victim advocates all trained in representation of victims of domestic violence, trafficking in human beings, child abuse, rape, murder, and other victims of crime and they have ongoing training on annual basis.

An assessment conducted by civil society organizations shows that: Victims Advocates (VAs) tended to use the terms “gender-based violence” and “domestic violence” interchangeably. While women are usually advised to report violence to the police, some VAs may advise women to stay with perpetrators if they have children, which can put women and children at risk. VAs are not always present at police stations when victims report violence and are often absent from court hearings, due to insufficient human resources. They also do not always assist victims in filing compensation claims. Otherwise, VAs tend to perform their duties according to the SOPs⁴⁵.

8. State Prosecutor. The interaction between the Prosecutor and the victim of domestic violence or violence against women usually comes into play in the subsequent reporting process. Prosecutors have an obligation to take the necessary measures depending on the risk assessment of a specific case of domestic violence. They assess domestic violence cases, the perpetrator’s criminal background and breaches of protection orders to determine if there is sufficient evidence to prosecute perpetrators of domestic violence. The victim of domestic violence is a party to the proceedings and at the same time the main witness presented in court by the prosecutor. Above all, the prosecutor has the obligation to provide evidence and proceed with the prosecution based on that evidence regardless of the victim’s willingness to proceed further or not with the prosecution. The prosecutor is also obliged to cooperate with the victims advocate, who assists the prosecutor throughout the proceedings by serving as a bridge between the prosecutor and the victim. The prosecutor has the obligation to inform the victim of the rights of the victim to the proceedings, the right to compensation and the status of his/her case.

An assessment conducted by civil society organizations shows that: “Prosecutors tend to be informed of various forms of gender-based violence, in addition to female genital mutilation. Some also confused sexual assault with sexual harassment. Some expressed uncertainty about how to use the new criminal offense of domestic violence, especially in combination with other offenses. Several special prosecutors have been appointed. Prosecutors had attended training on domestic violence and they tended to know their responsibilities. Representatives of other institutions confirmed that prosecutors perform their role well. This suggests improvement from 2017, when some prosecutors seemed to lack the knowledge and

⁴⁵ Kosovo Women’s Network “From Laws to Deeds”, May 2021. See: <https://Womensnetwork.org/ep-content/uploads/2021/05/KËN-GBV-Report-ALB-final.pdf>

professionalism in addressing gender-based violence. “Their experience in dealing with sexual violence remains limited, mainly due to the low reporting of these crimes”⁴⁶.

9. Courts. The courts examine with priority cases of domestic violence and violence against women. These cases are addressed by the court in civil or criminal proceedings depending on the nature of the case. In rare cases, courts are the first service providers to deal with a victim of domestic violence or violence against women. The courts have the responsibility to treat the parties and individuals who appear before them in an impartial, dignified and respectful manner, ensuring adequate protection for all parties involved in the proceedings. In civil proceedings, the courts review the request for a protection order or emergency protection order and impose the protection measures provided by law. In criminal proceedings, investigative bodies are competent to decide on the cases of prosecution of perpetrators of domestic violence, who have violated the protection order, or persons who have committed a criminal offence in a family relationship. When deciding on the weight of the sentence, the courts have the obligation to always take into account the relevant aggravating circumstances under the Criminal Code in order to determine the sentence proportionate and as effective as possible for the perpetrator. Courts have an obligation to notify all parties to the proceedings of their rights, as well as the consequences of their omission.

An assessment conducted by civil society organizations shows that: “...Although the judges were aware of the amendment in the Criminal Code of Kosovo and the inclusion of the Istanbul Convention in the Constitution of Kosovo, not all of them had a comprehensive understanding of gender-based violence, especially of various forms of sexual violence. Courts had encountered several cases of harassment, sexual assault, rape, or sexual harassment. Most of the gender-based violence cases they dealt with were related to domestic violence. Judges agreed that cases of domestic violence are now a higher priority than before, but monitoring suggests persisting delays, putting women at high risk of further violence. The phenomenon of women “withdrawing” their testimonies and apparently criminal charges continues, despite clear legal obligations to keep up with prosecution *ex officio*. Punishment for domestic violence crimes remains low. Some judges still seek to reconcile families, although this is not within their mandate when women and children are at risk of violence. Judges still do not consider the best interests of the child, giving priority to economic well-being over physical and mental well-being. Making better use of protection order measures and alimony payments in relation to final child custody decisions can help address this. In particular, the fear of losing child custody is a major reason why women endure violence and do not report it, so the courts have a responsibility to help address this issue. Some measures are still set out in protection orders, which preclude a comprehensive, victim-focused approach. “Further research is needed into the causes of victims withdrawing requests for protection order or lenient sentences, as well as child custody in relation to protection orders ...”⁴⁷

10. Department of Forensic Medicine/Ministry of Justice. Victims of domestic violence and violence against women meet with the staff of the Department of Forensic Medicine based on an order from the investigative and judicial bodies. The purpose of the examination is to provide evidence and to establish whether any form of violence has been committed

⁴⁶ Ibid

⁴⁷ Ibid

against the person. The Department of Forensic Medicine can examine a victim only with the consent of the victim. Ideally, the examination should be done at a time that would enable an accurate description of the victim's injuries. These examinations should be done with special care and respect for the victim's condition.

An assessment conducted by civil society organizations shows that: "...The Institute of Forensic Medicine (IFM) has enhanced its knowledge and capacity in the way of dealing with gender-based violence cases since 2017. Furthermore, IFM has made efforts to inform people, especially juveniles, of the importance of reporting crimes in a timely manner, such as rape and sexual assault. However, stigma and social pressure, including from family members, may prevent women and girls from reporting or seeking justice. Insufficient cooperation between Kosovo Police, IFM and the prosecution office apparently hinders the timely referral of cases of sexual violence in order to preserve biological evidence. "Kosovo still does not have a sexual violence referral center or a rape crisis center specialized in such treatment as provided by the Istanbul Convention ..."⁴⁸

11. Ministry of Finance, Labour and Transfers. The Ministry of Finance, Labour and Transfers has the mandate to draft policies, programs, legal infrastructure and monitor the quality of social services. The Social Welfare Department, in particular, is responsible for allocating funds to shelters in a timely manner, as well as licensing social service providers, monitoring the quality of their services, and the performance of social service officers responsible for case management.

An assessment conducted by civil society organizations shows that: "...There have been significant improvements in state funding for shelters since 2017. However, sufficient, sustainable, well-planned and legally protected funding remains an issue for shelters, in particular towards training them to provide comprehensive, victim-focused rehabilitation plans and reintegration and related services. Kosovo still does not have enough housing space under the Istanbul Convention; there is no shelter for boys over the age of 12 to be with their mothers; no services for LGBTI+ persons; and there are no other specialized services for victims of violence other than domestic violence and trafficking, as provided by the Istanbul Convention..."⁴⁹

12. Ministry of Local Government Administration. MLGA has the mission, among others, to contribute in increasing the municipalities' capacities to enhance the quality of life and security, respect and promotion of human rights by local self-government bodies, etc. Within the MLGA, there is a Division for the Advancement of Human Rights and at the local level there are human rights mechanisms - the Human Rights Unit in the municipality. Given that the National Strategy is a central level document, MLGA can provide its contribution as a bridge between the central and local level, for the best implementation of this Strategy and can follow this implementation more closely in Kosovo municipalities.

13. Municipalities/Directorate of Health and Social Welfare. The Directorates of Health and Social Welfare as the bearer of local government are mandated to manage social services in the municipality. At the municipal level, the Municipal Council for the Protection of

⁴⁸ Kosovo Women's Network "From Laws to Deeds", May 2021. See: <https://Womensnetwork.org/ep-content/uploads/2021/05/KËN-GBV-Report-ALB-final.pdf>

⁴⁹ Ibid

Victims of Domestic Violence is established in 20 municipalities in 2021, the same as in 2020, whereas in 2019 this Council had been established in only 12 municipalities. Furthermore, Municipalities within the directorates of health and social welfare develop victim support programs within social services including financial support for shelters for victims of violence. Municipalities alone or in cooperation with other municipalities of the same regions can contribute to the financial sustainability of shelters by participating in covering the costs of utilities, providing heat for shelters, providing adequate facilities, coordination for various re-integration etc. Municipalities have a responsibility to provide a budget for social housing, child care (nurseries and kindergartens, etc.) through the use of gender responsive budgeting.

14. Centers for Social Work. The Center for Social Work (CSW) is a public institution at the municipal level, competent for the protection of citizens in need of social and family services, in this context also the protection and provision of services for victims of domestic violence, adults and children, or victims of violence against women or girls until the sustainable reintegration and empowerment of the victim in coordination with other stakeholders. The Center for Social Work (CSW) assists victims of domestic violence and violence against women when social services, protection, re-integration and their sustainable strengthening in society are needed. Each victim referred is assigned a case manager, who will be officer appointed by CSW to assist in identifying and coordinating the existing services, assisting the person in developing a comprehensive case management plan. This should be done in close cooperation with other CSW members, to provide comprehensive assistance in security, housing, justice, education, training, employment, social assistance and legal aid. The case manager should coordinate and support the implementation of this plan, including its monitoring. The case manager participates in all hearings convened by the Court and submits the anamnesis of the case, or other reports upon request and in accordance with his/her function.

An assessment conducted by civil society organization shows: “...CSW respondents did not have information on gender-based violence, including that based on the amended Criminal Code. Some still recommend that the parent in a better financial situation takes custody of the child, rather than focusing on the overall well-being of the child. Interestingly, CSW staff still tended to try to reconcile couples, putting the victim at risk, in violation of the Istanbul Convention, the LPDV and the SOPs. All these issues show limitations in their professional capacities. Moreover, social workers are often absent from court hearings and do not accompany families who have experienced violence. Due to budget constraints, especially in the midst of decentralization CSWs continue to face some resource challenges related to human resources and infrastructure. These restrictions make it difficult for them to report to police stations and court hearings. At the same time, these shortcomings demonstrate insufficient responsibility on behalf of the CSWs in providing adequate professional and human resources to protect the rights of victims and children. Thus, their performance had improved little or not at all since 2017...”⁵⁰

⁵⁰ Kosovo Women’s Network “From Laws to Deeds”, May 2021. See: <https://Womensnetwork.org/ep-content/uploads/2021/05/KËN-GBV-Report-ALB-final.pdf>

15. Free Legal Aid Agency/Regional Legal Aid Offices. The Free Legal Aid Agency/Regional Legal Aid Offices provide free legal aid to victims who are eligible for this type of assistance. They facilitate victims' access to justice by providing information and advice to them on their legal rights, representing them before courts or administrative bodies, and assisting in the drafting of legal procedures and documents. The Free Legal Aid Agency also cooperates with victims advocates to ensure that victims of domestic violence always have access to free services, especially in civil proceedings, e.g. in drafting lawsuits for divorce or child custody, etc.

16. Municipal Directorates of Education/Educational Institutions. The Municipal Directorates of Education are responsible for informing and educating victims of domestic violence or violence against women under applicable law. Educational institutions are important resources especially in identifying and protecting children, boys and girls, who are victims of domestic violence. Given that the employees of educational institutions have frequent and repetitive contact with children, they are in a position to identify domestic violence, which may otherwise go unreported. Educational institutions can provide support to the children who are victims, in a conducive environment that does not interfere with their lives at home and with their families. These institutions have an important role to play in raising awareness on domestic violence and violence against women and informing other stakeholders when a child needs protection. They also have an important role to play in preventing violence. Ongoing education at an early age, which seeks to transform traditional gender roles and power relations, can contribute to the prevention of violence. As stated in the National Development Strategy, municipal directorates are also responsible for ensuring the adequate availability of preschool and childcare services, which services are affordable and accessible at the municipal level, which can be crucial for the autonomy of single parents, as part of comprehensive reintegration programs.

An assessment conducted by civil society organizations shows that: "...Educational curricula include information on domestic violence, but perhaps less on other forms of gender-based violence and the transformation of traditional gender roles. The Education Information Management System has made it easier to report possible cases of domestic violence, but educational staff are unaware of it and thus do not use it. The educators had minimal knowledge on the different forms of gender-based violence and how to interact with persons who have suffered violence. This, coupled with cultural norms, may mean that educators do not always report violence when it occurs, despite their legal obligation to do so. This suggests a need for further mandatory training. Schools do not have enough teachers or psychologists to adequately help children in need of additional help. Special government-funded education programs exist for victims..."⁵¹

17. Health Institutions: primary, secondary, tertiary and mental health centers. Health institutions have an important role both in identifying cases of domestic violence and violence against women, as well as in their treatment and referral to other responsible stakeholders. According to the Criminal Code, health institutions have an obligation jointly with educational institutions to report cases to the police. Usually, health institutions are the first actors to have contact with a victim of domestic violence and violence against women. It is therefore necessary to standardize services through the preparation of protocols for

⁵¹ Ibid

handling cases, from the first moment they approach health institutions. These protocols should also be prepared based on international models and standards for this purpose. Also, based on the clinical protocols for the treatment of victims of domestic violence and violence against women who appear in health institutions, psychologists and psychologists part of the staff of these institutions should enable psychological treatment of victims through therapies that can be planned as cycle with 12-15 sessions, depending on the need, the type of violence exercised, its escalation. Furthermore, they have a responsibility to support the medium and long-term care of victims of violence, including physical and psychological services, using a victim-centered approach.

An assessment conducted by civil society organizations (2021) shows that: “...As in 2017, health care workers still did not have knowledge on different forms of gender-based violence other than domestic violence, LPDV, SOPs and the best way to treat people who suffered from gender-based violence, mainly because they had not attended training. Health workers have a special protocol for treating forms of gender-based violence in addition to genital mutilation. They know their duty to refer victims to the police and said they do so regularly. Physical and mental health care is available for victims. “Meanwhile, comprehensive rehabilitation services for both victims and perpetrators can be improved by advancing the professional capacities of health care workers, including addressing gender norms, anger management and traditional power relations ...”⁵². Such findings draw attention to immediate institutional interventions to strengthen the capacity of health professionals and professionals, as well as to improve interventions through the preparation and review-supplementation of protocols and other necessary tools, in order to increase the effectiveness of the intervention.

18. Regional Offices of the Ombudsperson. The Regional Offices of the Ombudsperson have the following organization: the unit for gender equality and the gender equality officer. The Ombudsman has the responsibility to address allegations of human rights violations by the state. Domestic violence and violence against women is a human rights issue. Therefore, when a victim of domestic violence of violence against women has been ill-treated by a Kosovo institution in dealing with a violence case against his/her, victims may report the case to the Ombudsman for investigation and assistance. The Ombudsperson may make recommendations to institutions and other government bodies on how to improve their performance and address cases of domestic violence and violence against women.

An assessment conducted by civil society organizations shows that: “...The Ombudsperson Institution in Kosovo (OIK) has established the Department for Protection against Discrimination, which deals with gender equality issues. The OIK has seven regional offices, and each office has a Gender Equality Unit and a Gender Equality Officer. The OIK’s annual reports for 2017, 2018 and 2019 do not mention how many complaints they have received regarding gender-based violence. In 2019, OIK received 65 cases related to gender equality, and 39 cases were opened for investigation, but their report does not specify whether these were related to gender-based violence. OIK does not yet have an adequate data management system to quantify the types of cases assisted and their outcome, but such a database is planned to be developed...”⁵³

⁵² Ibid

⁵³ Ibid

19. Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Health is mandated to develop policies, guidelines and protocols, programs, legal infrastructure and monitor the quality of health and psycho-social services to victims and survivors of gender-based violence, violence against women, and sexual violence at all health care levels.

20. Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation. MESTI is mandated to develop policies, programs, curricula, legal infrastructure and monitor the quality of education at all levels.

21. Kosovo Bar Association. Kosovo Bar Association (KBA) is a self-governing organization of Kosovo lawyers, established by law, operating independently of state bodies. The Bar Association provides professional legal services and assistance to natural and legal persons in the protection of their rights and interests in accordance with the legal order. The KBA is involved in free legal aid programs, so they very often represent victims of crime in criminal proceedings, mainly in cases where they are appointed ex officio by the courts. Lawyers are often engaged by victims themselves in completing and filing claims for victims of crime. KBA provides professional training to increase the level of competence and practical skills of its members in relation to the professional representation of victims.

22. Correctional Service: works with perpetrators while in prison as part of their case management plans toward transforming norms and gender relations, challenging power relations, dealing with addictions, and anger management. Suspended sentences, in addition to the above, include monitoring perpetrators and supporting them in rehabilitation programs.

23. Vocational Training Centers work and support victims to gain skills in areas required in the workforce, using a gender-sensitive approach.

24. Employment Offices prioritize victim services in finding employment as part of support and strengthening plans.

Non-governmental support partners

1. Shelters. According to the Istanbul Convention, the government has a responsibility to provide quality shelter services to victims of violence against women, including sexual violence and domestic violence. In Kosovo, the government contracts non-governmental shelters to provide these services. Currently, most shelters serve women and children who have suffered from domestic violence and trafficking. Emergency and other shelters especially for persons who have suffered sexual violence are not yet available and clearly regulated. Shelters for victim boys over 13, men and abused LGBTI+ persons do not exist. Shelters provide victims with a safe place to live after experiencing a case of domestic violence, trafficking, sexual violence, etc. Victims may seek help from a shelter directly or may be referred to a shelter by another service provider. Shelters are temporary accommodations that not only provide protection for the victim but also assist the victim in the process of recovering from domestic violence and reintegration and empowerment to continue living as independently as possible in society. In some cases, the buildings in which the shelters operate are owned by the municipalities. Making them available is an opportunity that Municipalities have found to facilitate the functioning of this important service. In

Kosovo there are a total of 7 shelters⁵⁴ as specialized support services for victims/survivors of domestic violence and violence against women.⁵⁵

2. Non-governmental organizations. Some NGOs, in particular NGOs for women, are familiar with the problem of the victims of domestic violence or other forms of violence against women and are well informed about their treatment. They may apply for a protection order and/or an emergency protection order. NGOs have also played an important role in: raising awareness of the various forms of violence against women and domestic violence and how to report it, prevention, assisting victims of violence, conducting policy-oriented research, and monitoring the performance and the accountability of responsible institutions.

The evaluation conducted by civil society organizations, shows that: “... In addition to shelters, SOPs provide that other civil society organizations (CSOs) can also support victims through psychological or legal counselling, awareness and/or assistance in applying for a UMPE. In 2017, respondents from CSOs indicated that victims of domestic violence feel more comfortable coming to them than going to the police, due to the social stigmas associated with domestic violence. Furthermore, CSOs can play an important role in monitoring the government and holding institutions accountable for implementing the relevant legal framework. CSOs also support the government to better implement the legal framework through their expertise. Many CSOs work with marginalized groups which may find it difficult to seek help from other actors for fear that state institutions may discriminate against them, or they have little access to available resources. CSOs also provided referrals and assistance to potentially marginalized or vulnerable groups. In general, CSOs have thus contributed to the implementation of the relevant legal framework through awareness raising, referrals, service delivery, court monitoring, legal aid, and training institutions, although they rarely have government financial support for this work.”⁵⁶

KEY PRINCIPLES

The key principles guiding the National Strategy on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women 2022 - 2026 and its Action Plan are the following⁵⁷:

- ***Progressing towards a gender transformative approach:*** examining, finding the causes and changing the rigid gender norms and power inequalities that harm women and girls and generate discrimination at all ages, starting from early childhood, in society; promoting change in social attitudes, including the active engagement of men and boys, focusing on young people as promoters of change; working in a context-sensitive way, building strong partnerships and dialogue with local stakeholders, civil society and local communities, while also supporting women's organizations.

⁵⁴ “Mapping Support Services for Victims of Violence against Women in Kosovo”, 2017, prepared in the framework of the Council of Europe Project, Reinforcing the fight against violence against women and domestic violence in Kosovo. See: <https://rm.coe.int/seminar-pristina-report-alb/16807316e0>

⁵⁵ For further details on the number of cases treated in some of the shelters, please refer to Annex 3 of this Strategy.

⁵⁶ Kosovo Women’s Network “From laws to acts”, May 2021. See: <https://Womensnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/KËN-GBV-Report-ALB-final.pdf>

⁵⁷ The first three principles are the principles on which the EU Gender Equality Action Plan is based (p.4). https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/join-2020-17-final_en.pdf

- ***Zero tolerance for violence against women and domestic violence***: the protection of human life, dignity and integrity is a precondition for the development of a country; any form of violence is an attack on human dignity and a violation of human rights, so it should not be tolerated.
- ***Pursuing a human rights-based approach***: which puts the principles of non-discrimination, dignified treatment of and respect for victims from responsible institutions, and counteraction to inequality at the heart of all actions. This includes helping every human being to exercise their human rights, participate in decisions that concern them, and to seek redress when their rights are violated.
- ***Addressing a combination of gender discrimination with other forms of discrimination***: the focus should also be on the most disadvantaged women, for example, Roma and Egyptian women, women with disabilities, economically and socially deprived women, women living in rural areas, abused women, single mothers, migrants, and asylum-seeking women, LGBTI + women, older women, etc., as they face multiple discrimination.
- ***Recognition, appreciation, and respect for diversity***: between girls and women, girls and boys, and boys and men, in terms of age, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnic and social origin, religious practices and life choices.
- ***Inter-institutional coordination and cooperation***: Given the characteristics and cross-sectoral nature of the issues that constitute the main goals of this strategy, state institutions, independent institutions, civil society organizations, media, private sector, religious institutions, international organizations as well as all stakeholders and partners should work together by coordinating their actions to address as effectively as possible gender inequalities and injustices for women/youth/girls and men/youth/boys.
- ***Measuring progress, budgeting, and allocation of adequate funding for the implementation of the strategy and its action plan***: as in any drafted political document, the National Strategy on Protection Against Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women 2022-2026 should contain the indicators which would serve to measure progress during the periods of its implementation. Additionally, the drafting of the strategy included the costing of actions, i.e., a budgetary projection in which the necessary costs for implementation were calculated, divided into certain periods, including the measures or activities which cannot be covered with the state budget and need full financing or co-financing from donors. Ensuring the annual budgeting and allocation of adequate funds based on the cost contained in the document will be one of the main indicators of progress and of the increase of institutional accountability at the central and local level, which will undoubtedly lead to achieving the desired results.
- **Victim-centered approach** is defined as the systematic focus on a victim's needs and concerns to ensure that services are provided in a sensitive and non-judgmental way to victims. In other words, a victim-centered approach means setting the needs and priorities of victims of domestic violence or violence against women, at the forefront

of any response. The victim-centered approach should be followed by any institution that has contact with the victim. Planning, drafting and delivering coordinated responses should aim to support the following basic principles, which should also be incorporated into the professional training and practices of all institutions and agencies providing coordinated responses. These principles include: a) Treating victims with dignity and respect; b) Victims' access to a safe, supportive and non-judgmental environment; c) Victims' access to appropriate information; d) Enabling victims to make an informed choice; e) Victims' right to privacy and confidentiality, etc.⁵⁸

- **Due diligence and accountability principle:** the strategy clearly defines how all institutions involved in the cross-sectoral approach should apply the principle of due diligence, which carries with it strict obligations. Consequently, the monitoring, accountability and evaluation part is specified in the relevant chapter. Also, in the envisaged measures and actions, it is planned to strengthen the responsible institutional mechanisms which will be improved in terms of their performance with regards to accountability. This will apply to all service providers, including shelters. The due diligence principle is very important as the state has tremendous power, ability and interest to form, tolerate, encourage and develop values and culture. The state must take measures to protect women and girls against negative social and cultural practices that are detrimental to their well-being, dignity and health. The state must exercise the principle of due diligence to promote, protect and fulfill human rights - an obligation that extends to the prevention of human rights abuses by the state and its actors, as well as by non-state actors. This extension recognizes that violence against women, whether perpetrated by state or non-state actors, constitutes a violation of human rights and as such forces the state to enter the so-called 'private sphere' where most cases of violence against women occur.
- **Cross-cutting/cross-sectoral approach to violence against women and domestic violence** includes considering the interrelation of gender with inequalities/other oppressive factors (such as sexuality, gender identity, ethnicity, migration status, disability, etc.). leading to unique experiences of violence. By understanding the different ways in which violence is perpetrated and experienced, a cross-sectoral/cross-cutting approach can lead to the design and development of adequate specific responses to address cases appropriately. In implementing this strategy, responsible actors must recognize that experiences of violence against women are shaped by factors such as race, color, religion, origin, wealth, marital status, sexual orientation, HIV/AIDS status, immigrant or refugee status, age, disability, etc., which should all be considered and addressed appropriately.
- **Treating victim compensation as an essential element that enables full justice and recovery and reintegration of victims of domestic violence and violence against women.** The actors responsible for implementing this strategy, and in particular the drafters of the legal framework, should take steps to address the issue of victim compensation. Laws should allow criminal penalties to include an order of compensation and return by the perpetrator to the victim or her heirs - excluding from

⁵⁸ For more information, see: <https://www.endvaenoë.org/en/articles/1790-victim-survivor-centred-approach.html>

these heirs any perpetrator or accomplice to the crime or murder of “honor.” Such compensation should cover the victim's medical expenses, pain and suffering, legal expenses, counseling, loss of income and similar expenses. Laws should also make it clear that while compensation is a punitive element for the perpetrator in cases of violence against women, it does not replace other punishments such as imprisonment. Additionally, the compensation program should be sponsored by the state.

IV. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The National Strategy on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women 2022 - 2026 and the Action Plan consists of four strategic objectives which are further broken down into specific objectives.

In accordance with Article 4 of the Istanbul Convention, “*measures to protect the rights of victims, shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, gender, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, state of health, disability, marital status, migrant or refugee status, or other status*” in the implementation of all measures and actions foreseen under the strategic objectives and further detailed under the specific objectives, the cross-sectoral approach was followed and special attention was given to addressing the multiple discrimination suffered by specific groups in society. As a result, special emphasis has been placed on women, young women and girls, especially from rural areas, with disabilities and special needs, from ethnic minorities, LGBTI +, the elderly, single mothers, girls mothers, etc.⁵⁹

In order to measure the progress in meeting the specific and strategic objectives, as well as the mission that this Strategy carries, the possibility of measuring and reporting these indicators based on the Sustainable Development Objectives will be assessed. Also, an important indicator to be measured in terms of effective implementation of this strategy is the "Number of cases of domestic violence which end in a fatality".

Percentage of women and girls aged 15 years and over subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, disaggregated by the form of violence and by age (SGD indicator 5.2.1)

Percentage of women and girls aged 15 and over who are subjected to sexual violence by persons other than their intimate partner in the previous 12 months, disaggregated by age and place of occurrence (SGD indicator 5.2.2)

Percentage of persons, victims of physical or sexual harassment, by gender, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months (SDG Indicator 11.7.2)

Percentage of young men and women aged 18-29 who have experienced sexual violence before the age of 18 (SDG Indicator 16.2.3)

Percentage of violence cases reported to the responsible institutions (SDG Indicator 16.3.1)

⁵⁹ See: <https://rm.coe.int/168046246b>.

V.1. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE I

I. Identifying and preventing violence⁶⁰

Identification and prevention are two very important moments in addressing the phenomenon of domestic violence and violence against women. While identification enables the timely and effective treatment of cases through a coordinated multi-sectoral approach, prevention is a precondition not only for episodes of identified violence not to escalate but above all for them to be reduced. The more investment is made in prevention, the more results the joint work will have in the future.

Prevention is closely linked to the education and awareness of society. If the factors that incite and escalate violence such as prejudice, gender stereotypes, multiple gender discrimination, harmful effects of certain traditional or customary practices, etc., will be addressed from early childhood and if the continuous investment is made in educating society and raising awareness that domestic violence and violence against women are not tolerated, then, on the one hand, we will have an increase in trust in the responsible institutions which deal with the identified violence (i.e. an increase in the number of identified and reported cases), while on the other hand, we will have a reduction of possibilities of violence recurring and escalating. So, we will gradually move towards reducing the number of cases of exercising these forms of violence.

For this reason, in the specific objectives that unravel the strategic objective I, actions and measures related to the education and awareness-raising of the society not to tolerate domestic violence and violence against women are foreseen. Working with educational institutions, civil society organizations, the media and businesses is also important and helps both in identifying cases of violence and on their prevention. At the same time, under this strategic objective, the work with the perpetrators of violence is foreseen, as the need for their treatment is already a necessity. It is assessed that this treatment should be provided both during the period the perpetrators serve their sentence for the criminal offence committed, and afterwards. The education of younger generations, especially boys and men, must focus on preparing them as allies of girls and women for actions against domestic violence and violence against women and thus to create a generation of equality.

Specific objectives set out under Strategic Objective I:

Specific Objective I.1	Changing behaviour, attitude, roles, and gender stereotypes that justify violence.
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Specific Objective I.2	Implement educational measures at all levels to prevent violence.
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Specific	Promote cooperation between government, media and the private sector
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⁶⁰ In the entire content of the National Strategy on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women 2022 - 2026 as well as its Action Plan, wherever you encounter the word "**Violence**", please understand that it refers to **domestic violence and violence against women**, as quoted in the title of this document.

Objective I.3 for promoting measures for preventing and combating violence.

Specific Objective I.4 Establishment and implementation of programs for the psycho-social treatment of perpetrators of violent crimes.

To measure the progress towards meeting specific objectives and strategic objective I "Identifying and preventing violence through education and raising awareness", the following indicators are envisaged:

Strategic Objective I			
Identifying and preventing violence through education and raising awareness			
Indicator at the level of strategic objective:	Basic value	Target 2024	Target 2026
1. Percentage of women, men, girls and boys who believe that domestic violence and violence against women are intolerable.	To be determined by a study in 2022	Increased by 5%	Increased by 10%
2. Index on security	Every 0.737 in one woman	Every 0.85 in one woman	Every 1 in 1 woman
3. Number of cases of domestic violence that end in victim's death	13 cases of murder in family relationship in 2020	Decreased by 50%	Decreased by 100%
Specific objective I.1: Changing behaviour, attitude, roles, and gender stereotypes that justify violence			
Indicator at specific objective level I.1:	Basic value	Target 2024	Target 2026
1. Number of cases of domestic violence reported/reported by a third party	To be determined during 2022	Increased by 10%	Increased by 20%
2.cPercentage of women and girls older than 15 years of age that are subjected to domestic violence from different persons including partner in the previous 12 months, divided based on age and residence	To be determined during 2022	Decreased by 10%	Decreased by 20%
Specific objective I.2: Implement educational measures at all levels to prevent violence.			
Indicator at specific objective level I.2:	Basic value	Target 2024	Target 2026
Number of information sessions conducted for the staff of pre-university education institutions on the identification marks, prevention, and referral of cases of violence.	0 (Guidelines are in the drafting process, sessions will	60 sessions in 30 municipalities	16 sessions in 8 other municipalities

	be conducted later)		
Specific objective I.3: Promote cooperation between government, media and the private sector for promoting measures for preventing and combating violence.			
Indicator at specific objective level I.3:	Basic value	Target 2024	Target 2026
1. Number of media institutions and private businesses supported to adopt guidelines, self-regulatory standards, and protocols to prevent discrimination, violence, sexual harassment, and workplace harassment	0	Increased by 20%	Increased by 50%
2. Percentage of individuals victim of physical or sexual assault, based on gender, age, limited capabilities status and place where it happens, in the previous 12 months (SGD Indicator 11.7.2)	To be determined during 2022	Decreased by 10%	Decreased by 20%
Specific objective I.4: Establishment and implementation of programs for the psycho-social treatment of perpetrators of violent crimes.			
Indicator at specific objective level I.4:	Basic value	Target 2024	Target 2026
Number of perpetrators of domestic violence and violence against women treated in psycho-social programs established as foreseen under this Strategy	0	Increased by 30%	Increased by 60%

Some of the **expected results** from the implementation of specific objectives under Strategic Objective I are:

- Awareness of society not to tolerate domestic violence and violence against women will be continuously improved including through integrated cross-sectoral actions;
- Reporting of cases by third parties will be increased, as provided by applicable law;
- The curricula of educational institutions of all levels will provide knowledge on the prevention, identification, protection and overall fight against domestic violence and violence against women;
- The staff of pre-university educational institutions will be more professionally prepared to identify and refer according to the standards the cases of domestic violence or violence against women;
- Cooperation between government, media and private businesses will be strengthened and accompanied by positive results in actions against domestic violence and violence against women;
- The perpetrators of domestic violence will be treated in the psycho-social aspect, in accordance with international requirements and standards.

It is also important to invest in sex education and reproductive health of students in pre-university education. Comprehensive sex education curricula for pre-university education (grades 1-12) have been developed and include information on: growth and development; sexual anatomy and physiology; reproduction, contraception, pregnancy and childbirth; HIV and AIDS; IST; family life

and interpersonal relationships; culture and sexuality; strengthening human rights; non-discrimination, equality and gender roles; sexual behavior; sexual diversity; sexual abuse; gender-based violence; and harmful practices.⁶¹

After the successful implementation of Strategic Objective I, it is expected that the number of women, men, youth of both genders, girls and boys in the Republic of Kosovo, who believe that domestic violence and violence against women are intolerable, is increased as a result of the actions taken to raise awareness and educating society in this regard. Likewise, the number of cases of domestic violence or violence against women that end in a fatality will be significantly reduced as a result of public awareness and avoidance of justifying attitudes towards violence.

V.2. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE II

II. Advancing and harmonizing public policies with international standards.

The Government of Kosovo prioritizes the fight against domestic violence and violence against women and in this context, a series of actions have been taken to improve the legal framework and policies that focus on the identification as well as the treatment, support, reintegration, and empowerment of victims/survivors of violence, but also in prevention through education and awareness of society as a whole. Pursuant to this Strategy, it is planned to continue with the improvement of the legal framework and policies. Thus, the Law on Protection from Domestic will be improved first (this process is underway) taking into account the standards of the Istanbul Convention, but also the experience so far and the gaps identified by its implementation. In addition, an ex-post analysis of laws currently in force is foreseen. These steps will be taken after a detailed analysis of the legal framework and the identification of all legal acts that need to be updated and harmonized. In addition to the legal framework, there are a number of policies that need to be reviewed and updated in line with international standards (such as Standard Operating Procedures, shelter operating standards and centers that provide other specialized support services, etc.).

Profiling professionals in various fields are also a necessity and an important step envisaged as part of the implementation of specific objectives under this strategic objective II. This will inevitably be accompanied by capacity building/strengthening of these professionals and professionals of key responsible institutions and partners in the fight against domestic violence and violence against women, in accordance with Article 15 of the Istanbul Convention⁶². Article 15 of this Convention provides: *“1. Parties shall provide or strengthen appropriate training for the relevant professionals dealing with victims or perpetrators of all acts of violence covered by the scope of this Convention, on the prevention and detection of such violence, equality between women and men, the needs and rights of victims, as well as on how to prevent secondary victimisation. 2. Parties shall encourage that the training referred to in paragraph 1 includes training on coordinated multi-agency co-operation to allow for a comprehensive and appropriate handling of referrals in cases of violence covered by the scope of this Convention.”*

This strategy also envisages the need to invest in financial, human and infrastructural resources, as well as in close cooperation with civil society organizations, in order to facilitate the processes of victim treatment and case management.

Specific objectives envisaged under strategic objective II:

Specific	Improving the legal framework for dealing with all cases of domestic
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⁶¹ Information provided by UNFPA in the preparation of this strategic document.

⁶² See: <https://rm.coe.int/168046246b>

Objective II.1 violence and violence against women.

Specific Objective II.2 Capacity building for dealing with cases of domestic violence and violence against women.

In order to measure the progress towards the fulfilment of specific objectives and strategic objective II "Advancement and harmonization of public policies with international standards", the following indicators have been defined:

Strategic Objective II			
Advancing and harmonizing public policies with international standards			
Indicator at the level of the strategic objective:	Basic value:	Target 2024	Target 2026
Number of criminal reports with adult and juvenile perpetrators, unsolved for each year.	13 offences with adult perpetrators and 43 offences with juvenile perpetrators, for 2020	Reduced by 50%	Reduced by 90%
Specific objective II.1: Improving the legal framework for dealing with all cases of domestic violence and violence against women.			
Indicator at specific target level II.1:	Basic value	Target 2024	Target 2026
Level of reflection of the gender meaning of violence against women and all forms of this violence, according to the Istanbul Convention, in the legal framework of the Republic of Kosovo	The current legal framework lacks the gender meaning of violence against women, especially outside the sphere of domestic violence ⁶³	50% compliance with the Istanbul Convention	100% compliance with the Istanbul Convention
Specific objective II.2: Capacity building for dealing with cases of domestic violence and violence against women.			
Indicator at specific target level II.2:	Basic value	Target 2024	Target 2026
Number of training and professional development curricula developed	4	8	12
Indicator: Number of professionals and professionals trained to deal with cases of	Data for 2020-2021 will be	Increased by 10%	Increased by 20%

⁶³ According to the report prepared by the Kosovo Women's Network "From laws to acts", May 2021. See: <https://Womensnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/KËN-GBV-Report-ALB-final.pdf>

violence, on an annual basis	obtained		
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Some of the **expected results** from the implementation of specific objectives under strategic objective II are:

- Adoption of legal acts and policies for protection from domestic violence and violence against women will be a priority of the Government of Kosovo,
- Professionals (both genders) of all institutions responsible for dealing with cases of domestic violence and violence against women, will be trained and qualified.

With the successful implementation of strategic objective II, it is expected that the reported cases of all forms of domestic violence and violence against women, be investigated and punished in accordance with applicable law, with priority and institutional responsibility. Implementation of this improved legislation in practice will also lead to a reduction in the number of criminal reports with adult and juvenile perpetrators, unsolved each year. It is understood that in parallel with punishment, programs and policies for the rehabilitation of perpetrators of violence will operate, as outlined in Specific Objective I.4 above.

V.3. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE III

III. Institutional strengthening in prevention and addressing of domestic violence.

Based on the progress of the work of the responsible institutions and partners in the fight against domestic violence and violence against women, as well as following the recommendations arising from the implementation of the previous National Strategy on Protection against Domestic Violence 2016- 2020, strengthening of the mechanisms at both central and local levels is assessed as important.

At the central level, the Office of the National Coordinator against Domestic Violence will be empowered with sufficient financial, human, and infrastructural resources, which will enable the performance of a number of processes such as coordination, monitoring and evaluation of initiatives against violence, as foreseen in the Istanbul Convention, as well as implementation of this Strategy.

At the local level, the Coordination Mechanisms against domestic violence established so far in a part of the municipalities of the Republic of Kosovo have shown that they are necessary and in harmony with the coordinated multi-sectoral approach outlined in the Istanbul Convention.

These mechanisms need to be strengthened and be as efficient as possible in the work they perform, while they need to be extended throughout the country and the focus of intervention should also be extended to include violence against women. Working with harmonized joint agreements, protocols and procedures is also a necessity.

An important place in terms of cooperation and coordination should be occupied by civil society organizations specializing in the fight against domestic violence and violence against women. This cooperation should be extended in several directions and civil society should be present from the design, to the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of public policies. Data collection and updating is another important element where joint inter-institutional efforts should focus. The Istanbul Convention on Data clearly states that data from research and development as well as administrative data collected and updated by the responsible and partner institutions are needed. The research is intended to collect quantitative and qualitative data on the public perception of not tolerating violence, or data in line with the indicators of the Sustainable Development Objectives (SDGs).

Regarding the administrative data, it is foreseen the strengthening of the institutional capacities to improve the data entry and the real-time use of the database created at the Ministry of Justice. This

may also require coordination and reconciliation with the way institutions collect and record their administrative data. Improving access to justice for victims of violence/survivors is also part of the actions envisaged under Strategic Objective III. Here are taken into consideration and reference is made to other documents in which the same actions are foreseen, especially in the Kosovo Program for Gender Equality 2020-2024. In this case, it is stated in the table of the Action Plan with a footnote in which document the reference is made and care has been taken that if the funds for the implementation of a certain action are provided in the reference document, the costing is not done as part of this strategy.

Specific objectives envisaged under the strategic objective III:

Specific Objective III.1	Strengthening the inter-institutional coordination group at the central level.
Specific objective III.2	Establish and strengthen coordination mechanisms at the local level for the management of cases of violence.
Specific objective III.3	Advancing inter-institutional coordination and cooperation between the central and local level and Civil Society Organizations.
Specific objective III.4	Research, collection and updating of inter-institutional data for case identification.
Specific objective III.5	Improving access to justice for victims/survivors of violence.

In order to measure the progress towards the fulfilment of the specific objectives and the strategic objective III “Institutional strengthening in prevention and addressing of domestic violence”, the following indicators have been defined:

Strategic Objective III			
Institutional strengthening in prevention and addressing of domestic violence.			
Indicator at the level of the strategic objective:	Basic value	Target 2024	Target 2026
1. Percentage of member institutions of central and local coordination mechanisms that are empowered and properly implement joint responsibilities in accordance with the Istanbul Convention.	To be determined in 2022	Increased by 50%	Increased by 80%
2. Percentage of cases of domestic violence reported (SDG Indicator 16.3.1)	To be determined in 2022	Increased by 10%	Increased by 20%
3. Number of cases of domestic violence reaching a final judicial decision	To be determined in 2022	Increased by 50%	Increased by 100%
Specific objective III.1: Strengthening the inter-institutional coordination group at the central level.			
Indicator at specific target level III.1:	Basic value	Target 2024	Target 2026

Adequate budget line for strengthening the Office of the National Coordinator against Domestic Violence for effective coordination and monitoring of actions against violence.	To be determined in 2022	Increased by 15%	Increased by 30%
Specific objective III.2: Establish and strengthen coordination mechanisms at the local level for the management of cases of violence.			
Indicator at specific target level III.2:	Basic value	Target 2024	Target 2026
Number of Local Coordination Mechanisms for managing cases of violence set up throughout the country, with local coordinators and clearly defined budget support.	20	28	38
Specific objective III.3: Advancing inter-institutional coordination and cooperation between the central and local level and Civil Society Organizations.			
Indicator at specific target level III.3:	Basic value	Target 2024	Target 2026
Percentage of the budget dedicated to NGOs working closely on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, in terms of prevention, protection (excluding shelters), reintegration, and empowerment of victims/survivors.	To be determined in 2022	Increased by 10%	Increased by 30%
Specific objective III.4: Research, collection and updating of inter-institutional data for case identification.			
Indicator at specific target level III.4:	Basic value	Target 2024	Target 2026
1. Database of cases handled in a multi-sectoral manner coordinated, functional and regularly updated.	Database 65% functional	Database 100% functional	Database 100% functional
2. Percentage of youth of 18-29 years of age subjected to sexual violence until age of 18 (SDG Indicator 16.2.3)	To be determined in 2022	Decreased by 10%	Decreased by 20%
Specific objective III.5: Improving access to justice for victims/survivors of violence.			
Indicator at specific target level III.5:	Basic value	Target 2024	Target 2026
1. Number of victims/survivors of violence who receive free legal aid	1803 persons have requested free legal aid during 2020	Increased by 40%	Increased by 70%
2. Number of women with access to justice	Every 1.83 in 4 women	Every 2.5 in 4 women	Every 4 in 4 women

Some of the **expected results** from the implementation of specific objectives under strategic objective III are:

- The Government of Kosovo will dedicate the appropriate budget and will allocate adequate funds for strengthening the Office of the National Coordinator against Domestic Violence, to enable effective coordination and monitoring of actions against violence;
- Local Coordination Mechanisms for the management of cases of domestic violence and violence against women will be established and functional in all municipalities of the Republic of Kosovo, with adequate and sustainable human and financial resources;
- The Kosovo Police will be empowered through the establishment of a special police directorate at the central level and units at the regional and local level to deal with cases of domestic violence and violence against women. Logistical support to domestic violence units will enable victims to be transported for access to emergency medical services, court appearance or other support services. Emergency funds (petty cash) will be created in the Kosovo Police and Centers for Social Work in order to meet the emergency needs of victims when dealing with cases of domestic violence during their stay in police stations and CSWs.
- Specialized civil society organizations working closely on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, in terms of prevention, protection, reintegration, and empowerment of victims/survivors will be supported by financial resources, similar to NGOs which provide specialized housing services;
- Data on case management and administrative data for cases handled in a multi-sectoral coordinated manner, as well as for cases seeking and receiving free legal aid, will be updated by all responsible institutions and will be recorded in the database in real-time.

With the successful implementation of strategic objective III, it is expected that the necessary central and local coordination mechanisms will be set up and will function efficiently. In parallel, it will be possible to improve coordination, both between these mechanisms and with civil society as a whole, while advancing towards monitoring and evaluation processes for the implementation of this national strategy, as well as for public policies against violence as a whole.

V.4. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE IV

IV. Provision of general services and specialized support services to victims.

Provision of general services and specialized support services to enable reintegration and empowerment of victims/survivors of domestic violence and violence against women is another important direction that constitutes the fourth pillar of this national strategy.

Following immediate protection and security actions for identified or reported cases, steps need to be taken towards reintegration and empowerment, so that these women and girls but also boys and men who have experienced violence, can live free from violence. Thus, the actions envisaged under this strategic objective are mainly focused on the support, extension, improvement or empowerment of specialized support services, parallel to general services, in line and harmonization with the Istanbul Convention.

According to the Convention, specialized support services are necessary and a state should at least provide for the establishment and efficient operation of these types of services. a) Shelters (providing safe, accessible and available accommodation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for all groups of women and girls or victims/survivors of domestic violence and violence against women), b) Helpline (which should be nationwide, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, free of charge, for all forms of violence against women and domestic violence, with services provided in at least two official languages in the Republic of Kosovo and ideally in all languages, depending on the language spoken by the victim), c) Support for victims of sexual violence (such as emergency centers for rape or referral centers for victims of sexual violence, where the medical and forensic examination is

provided, including clinical management of rape, provision of rape kits/emergency contraceptives and PEP kits, etc., support for trauma, counselling, etc.), d) Support for a child witnessing violence (support services should take into account the rights and needs of the child witnessing violence and these services should provide appropriate psychological counseling according to the age of the child), e) Legal Aid Support (Violence Advisers should assist and/or support victims during investigations and court proceedings; provision should also be made for the provision of appropriate support services to victims so that their rights and interests are presented and taken into account), f) Programs for perpetrators (which provide for two distinct types of programs: for perpetrators of domestic violence and for sexual abusers).

In the way actions under this national strategy are envisaged, programs for perpetrators are included as part of Strategic Objective I and Specific Objective I.4. While all other specialized support services, including counselling centers for women and girls, or even for boys and men, shelters for cases of abused boys, young men, and women, or opportunities for joint housing of mother and male child abused of 12 - 18 years old, etc., are envisaged under this strategic objective III. At the same time, necessary measures and actions are foreseen for the long-term and sustainable reintegration of victims/survivors of violence. Noteworthy is the important role of specialized civil society organizations, which will contribute to the achievement of this objective with their expertise and commitment.

Specific objectives envisaged under the strategic objective IV:

Specific objective IV.1	Support and strengthening of specialized services for victims/survivors from all groups and child victims and witnesses of violence.
Specific objective IV.2	Implement policies that enable long-term reintegration and sustainable empowerment of victims/survivors of violence.

In order to measure the progress towards the fulfilment of the specific objectives and the strategic objective IV “Provision of general services and specialized support services to victims,” the following indicators have been defined:

Strategic objective IV			
Provision of general services and specialized support services to victims			
Indicator at the level of the strategic objective:	Base value	Target 2024	Target 2026
1. Budget line dedicated, based on analysis, to the operation of specialized support service centers for all forms of violence.	Budget for shelters in 2020: 495,000 EUR	Increased by 5 %	Increased by 10%
2. Number of women that enjoy their property rights in equal way as men	Every 0.62 in 1 woman	Every 0.85 in 1 woman	Every 1 in 1 woman
Specific objective IV.1: Support and strengthening of specialized services for victims/survivors from all groups and child victims and witnesses of violence			
Indicator at specific target level IV.1:	Base value	Target 2024	Target 2026
Number of specialized services for survivors of violence expanded and strengthened, disaggregated by type of service, target group and characteristics of this group.	To be determined in 2022	Increased by 10 %	Increased by 30 %
Specific objective IV.2: Implement policies that enable long-term reintegration and sustainable empowerment of victims/survivors of violence.			
Indicator at specific target level IV.2:	Base value	Target 2024	Target 2026

Number of victims/survivors of violence reintegrated through relevant programs, at the central and local level.	To be determined in 2022	Increased by 30 %	Increased by 50 %
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Some of the **expected results** from the implementation of specific objectives under strategic objective IV are:

- Specialized support services for survivors of violence will be operational, in line with the requirements/standards of the Istanbul Convention;
- The Government of Kosovo will invest with priority in the reintegration and sustainable empowerment of survivors of violence, through the efficient operation of relevant programs.

With the successful implementation of strategic objective IV, it is expected that the functioning of specialized support service centers for all forms of violence will be supported with the necessary budget from the central and local government (despite the situations of humanitarian crises and natural disasters). In addition, reintegration programs will be supported to operate efficiently, as they enable the sustainable empowerment of survivors of different forms of violence.

V. IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REPORTING OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY ON PROTECTION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN 2022-2026

The Ministry of Justice/Office of the National Coordinator against Domestic Violence is mandated to monitor the implementation of the National Strategy on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women 2022-2026 and consequently its Action Plan.

The main goal of the institutions of the Republic of Kosovo is undoubtedly the full implementation of the strategic document, a process that will be preceded by the implementation of activities and objectives set out in the Action Plan over the years. The process of implementing the strategy will be a process of achieving its strategic goals and objectives.

For the implementation of strategic objectives, a 3-year Action Plan has been drafted with complete costing for the first three years. This Action Plan defines specific objectives, concrete activities towards the institutions responsible and support for their implementation, SMART indicators, existing situation, target, financial resources, which are calculated referring to the budget foreseen in the medium-term expenditure framework (MTEF) as well as the deadlines for their fulfilment. Also, in the calculation of financial needs, projects with donor funding, ongoing or planned, according to specific areas, have been taken into account.

All central and local institutions are obliged to take necessary measures to implement the obligations set out in the National Strategy on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women 2022-2026 and consequently the Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy over the years, in accordance with their responsibilities and legal mandate.

Monitoring and evaluating the achievement of objectives and the effectiveness of relevant activities are an integral part of the strategy and key components of its implementation process. Monitoring and evaluation will serve to follow the progress of Strategy implementation, to measure in the process the degree of realization of its objectives, to assess the need and determine the directions of adjustments, especially related to the activities. The monitoring process will be carried out by the responsible institutions with the wide participation of stakeholders. Civil society organizations will also be engaged and play an important role in the process of monitoring and evaluating the implementation of

activities and measures envisaged under the Action Plan of the National Strategy on Protection Against Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women 2022-2026.

Monitoring will be a key process for providing the information needed for accountability purposes, it will not be effective unless action is taken on what has been assessed and reported. Therefore, every 6 months and at the end of the year, the responsible mechanisms should draft a 6-month and annual report which should contain the evaluation of the most successful activities and in general the fulfilment of the strategy goals, identifying challenges and difficulties encountered during the implementation process and providing concrete recommendations to remove obstacles presented during the process of meeting specific and strategic objectives. The Office of the National Coordinator for Protection from Domestic Violence had the primary responsibility for drafting this report. This Office, through a form that will be compiled in the first months of implementation of the strategy, will regularly request and collect data from all responsible institutions for the implementation of measures and activities specified in the action plan of this Strategy. They will be discussed during the regular meetings of the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Group against domestic violence. Afterwards, the collected information will be processed, and the monitoring report will be prepared based on the indicators defined at activity level, as well as at specific and strategic objectives levels. Data will also be requested and collected from civil society organizations and international partners working in the field of protection from domestic violence and violence against women, as well as from international organizations and donors focusing on this issue.

Monitoring the implementation of the strategic document and its effectiveness is essential:

- (i) to ensure that goals are being achieved,
- (ii) to monitor invested contributions and activities,
- (iii) to ensure that implementation is going according to the prescribed flow,
- (iv) to warn institutions responsible for potential problems/delays or problems before the situation becomes critical,
- (v) to suggest corrective actions or to review the strategy based on experience gained.

By monitoring the strategy and performance indicators, institutions will be able to create an overview of the situation, i.e. at what point is the strategy towards achieving the set goals, drawing lessons, taking corrective measures, and if possible, its review processes. Monitoring has been found to be most useful when lessons are learned from the process developed, which are then used for future processes. Therefore, this should be taken into account when monitoring the effectiveness of the Strategy implementation. In this sense, the strategy will be a dynamic document, which will adapt to the change of objectives, circumstances and experience gained.

While the monitoring reports are projected to be semi-annual and annual, it is important to carry out a process of medium-term evaluation of the implementation of the strategy, before its final evaluation. This assessment that can be predicted to be performed e.g. in the second half of 2024, may serve to reorganize the forecasts in this strategic document depending on the medium-term performance. This would help to achieve both the medium and long term goals set out in this strategy. In addition to the mid-term evaluation, it is intended to carry out a process of a full evaluation of the fulfilment of the goals of this strategy, in the last year of its implementation, as preparation for further actions beyond 2026.

VI. BUDGET IMPACT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY

The Action Plan for the implementation of the National Strategy on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women 2022-2026, has a total implementation cost of **5,745,570.00 Euro** for three years of implementation (2022-2023).

Most of the cost (about 00% of the budget) will be used for current expenditures related to capacity building, support and strengthening of specialized services, regulation of the monitoring and reporting system related to protection from domestic violence and violence against women, inter-institutional coordination and cooperation, etc.

Table 1. Presents a summary of the budget for the implementation of the Plan by types and years, while this is based on detailed calculations of expenditures for each planned objective.

Implementation of the action plan for the first 3 years will require financial resources as shown in the table below in millions of euros (KT- General Budget for Action Plan, KR- running costs, K - capital, SG - subsidies and grants).

Table 2. Presents a summary of the budget for the implementation of the Plan by funding sources.

Table 3. Presents a breakdown of expenditures by sector and by years for the implementation of the Plan.

Table 1. Budget summary by objectives and years

Strategic Objectives	2022				2023				2024			
	KT	KR	K	SG	KT	KR	K	SG	KT	KR	K	SG
I. Prevention and identification of violence	224,71	202,71	22,00		146,915.00	131,91	15,00		136,46	121,46	15,00	
	5.00	5.00	0.00			5.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	
	0	0	0			0	0		0	0	0	
II. Advancing and harmonizing public policies with international standards	123,90	53,900	70,00		105,630.00	30,630.00	75,00		112,55	57,550	55,00	
	0.00	.00	0.00			.00	0.00		0.00	.00	0.00	
	0	0	0			0	0		0	0	0	
III. Institutional strengthening in prevention and addressing of domestic violence	64,800	64,800	0		38,255.00	38,255.00	0		30,870	30,870	0	
	.00	.00				.00			.00	.00		
IV. Providing general services and specialized support services to victims.	1,443,700	738,70	70,5,00		1,374,700.00	719,70	65,5,00		11,129,70	669,70	46,0,00	
		0.00	00.00			0.00	00.00		0.00	0.00	00.00	
		0	00			0	00		0	0	00	

Total:	1,857,115.00				1,665,500.00				1,409,580.00			
Sub-total 2022-2024:	4,932,195.00											

Table 2. Structure of expenditures according to the years planned in the action plan and source of funding

Years	Total costs		
	BRK	Donors	Total:
2022	1,177,037.00	680,078.00	1,857,115.002
2023	1,145,965.00	519,535.00	1,665,500.00
2024	977,657.6	431,922.40	1,409,580.00
Total:	3,300,660.00	1,631,535.00	4,932,195.00

Table 3. The distribution of expenditures by category by sector and by year is as follows:

Years	2022	2023	2024
Wages and salaries			
Goods and Services			
Capital Expenditures	617,000.00	650,000.00	530,000.00
Total	2,193,800.00	1,791,500.00	1,542,580.00

V. NATIONAL STRATEGY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO ON PROTECTION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ACTION PLAN 2016 – 2020

No.	Strategic and specific objectives, indicators and actions	Basic value	Provisional Objective [2024]	Last year's goal [2026]	Outcome
I.	Strategic Objective: Prevention and identification of violence				
1	Indicator: Percentage of women, men, girls and boys who believe that domestic violence and violence against women are intolerable.	It will be determined by a study in 2022	Increased by 5%	Increased by 10%	The number of women, men, girls and boys in Kosovo who believe that domestic violence and violence against women are intolerable has increased as a result of the actions undertaken to raise public awareness.
2	Indicator: Index on security	Every 0.737 in one woman	Every 0.85 in one woman	Every 1 in 1 woman	The level of feeling secure among women increases significantly, through all actions taken to protect them from any form of violence
3	Indicator: Number of cases of domestic violence that end in victim's death	13 cases of murder in family relationship in 2020	Decreased by 50%	Decreased by 100%	Successfully implemented actions within this strategy will enable a change of mentality and will avoid leading to fatalities of cases of domestic violence against women
I.1	Specific Objective: Changing behaviours, attitudes, roles and gender stereotypes that justify violence.				
1	Indicator: Number of cases of domestic violence denounced/reported by a third party	It will be determined by a study in 2022	Increased by 5%	Increased by 20%	Awareness of domestic violence and violence against women is continuously improved through integrated cross-sectoral actions, which leads to an increase of denounced cases or reported by third parties, as provided by applicable law.
2	Indicator: Percentage of women and girls older than 15 years of age that are subjected to domestic violence from different persons including	It will be determined in 2022	Decreased by 10%	Decreased by 20%	Better institutional response and more professional services with impact an increase of community trust in law enforcement institutions, the number of denunciations on the cases of women and girls who have been sexually abused and who will seek protection from this form of

	partner in the previous 12 months, divided based on age and residence (SGD indicator 5.2.2)						violence which will cause a decrease in the percentage of women and girls aged 15 and over who are subjected to sexual violence.		
No.	Action	Deadline	Budget			Source of funding	Leading and supporting institution	Output	Reference documents
			2022	2023	2024				
I.1.1	Conduct an analysis to understand general perception on violence	2022	20,000.00	X	X	Kosovo Budget Donors	MoJ/Coordinator's Office	Report with findings and recommendations	
I.1.2	Promoting positive role models of "Agents of change in the community", who challenge gender stereotypes and show zero tolerance to violence	2022-2024 (Ongoing)	9,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo Donors	MoJ / Coordinator's Office AGE, all ministries and development partners, human rights institutions, NGO.	Video messages and posters of loved ones for the public that serve as positive role models and encouragement not to accept and tolerate domestic violence and violence against women	Istanbul Convention (Chapter III, Articles 7, 12, 12/5 and 13, Chapter IV, Articles 18 and 19, Chapter V, Article 42)
I.1.3	Information sessions and mobilization of community leaders as partners and collaborators in actions against domestic violence and violence against women	2022-2026 (Ongoing)	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo Donors	MoJ / Coordinator's Office, religious communities AGE, all ministries and development partners, human rights institutions, NGO, international institutions	More community leaders informed on the importance of their attitude against domestic violence and violence against women A memorandum of cooperation signed between the leaders of religious and other communities and the Office of the National	Istanbul Convention (Chapter III, Articles 12 and 13)

								Coordinator for Protection from Domestic Violence, on joint actions against all forms of violence	
I.1.4	Monthly awareness activities on domestic violence and violence against women with a particular focus on vulnerable groups of women and girls	2022-2024 (every month)	3100.00	3100.00	3100.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo Donors	MoJ / Coordinator's Office AGE, all ministries and development partners, human rights institutions, NGO, international institutions	At least 12 awareness-raising activities carried out each year More women and girls from vulnerable groups informed of domestic violence and violence against women	Istanbul Convention (Chapter III, Articles 12 and 13)
I.1.5	Ongoing awareness campaigns/activities by the Kosovo Police	2022-2026	5,274.00	5,274.00	5,274.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo	KP Responsible local institutions, NGO	At least three awareness-raising activities carried out each year	Istanbul Convention (Chapter III, Articles 12 and 13)
I.1.6	Education and promotion of positive models of boys and men as “Agents of change in the community”, who challenge gender stereotypes and show zero tolerance to	2022-2024 (Ongoing)	11,200.00	11,200.00	11,200.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo Donors	MoJ/Coordinator's Office, AGE, all ministries and development partners, human rights institutions,	Video messages and posters of persons loved by the public that serve as positive role models and encouragement not to accept and tolerate domestic	Istanbul Convention (Chapter III, Articles 7, 12, 12/5 and 13, Chapter IV, Articles 18 and 19, Chapter V,

	domestic violence and violence against women						NGOs, international institutions	<p>violence and violence against women.</p> <p>More men and boys allies of women and girls in the fight against domestic violence and violence against women</p> <p>Reducing justifying attitudes and tolerance for domestic violence and violence against women “in the name of honor”</p>	Article 42)
I.1.7	Annual campaign of 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence and domestic violence (25 November – 10 December)	2022-2026 (once annually)	19,716.00	19,716.00	19,716.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo Donors	MoJ/ Coordinator’s Office, AGE, all ministries and development partners, human rights institutions, NGOs	<p>1 awareness campaign coordinated between institutions, partners and NGOs, with 16-day duration, once annually.</p> <p>Coordination of messages and activities to maximise impact.</p>	Istanbul Convention (Chapter III, Articles 12 and 13)
I.1.8	Piloting of premarital counselling programs/courses, which	2024	X	X	1,650.00	Budget of the Governme	Municipality / Civil Registry Offices,	The young men and women who decide to start a family are	Istanbul Convention (Chapters III

	provide mandatory information on applicable legislation on family protection from violence, marital and property rights, etc.					nt of Kosovo Donors	MoJ/Office of the National Coordinator, AGE, human rights institutions, NGOs	informed about the Law on Family Protection and the various forms of domestic violence and violence against women	and IV)
I.1.9	Assessment of effectiveness of piloted premarital counselling programs/courses	2025-2026	X	X	3,650.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo Donors	Municipality / Civil Registry Offices, MoJ/Office of the National Coordinator, AGE, human rights institutions, NGOs	Report prepared on the assessment of the effectiveness of such programs/centers with relevant findings and recommendations. Guidelines developed for the extension of these programs/courses throughout the country, based on this assessment.	Istanbul Convention (Chapters III and IV)
I.1.9	Counselling program for positive parenting at the health service centers for women and the family, or at the centers for social work.	2022-2024	5,850.00	5,850.00	5,850.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo Donors	MoH/ counselling or consultants for mothers and children, MFLT/CSW, MoJ/Office of the National Coordinator, AGE, municipalities,	Module on positive parenting developed and ready to apply with parents (mothers and fathers) Professionals trained to apply this module	Istanbul Convention (Chapters III and IV) Family code

							human rights institutions, NGO, international institutions		
I.1.10	Evaluation of the counselling program for positive parenting at the health service centers for women and the family, or at the centers for social work.	2022-2024	X	X	X	Budget of the Government of Kosovo Donors	MoH/ counselling or consultants for mothers and children, MFLT/CSW, MoJ/Office of the National Coordinator, AGE, municipalities, human rights institutions, NGO, international institutions	Report on evaluation.	Istanbul Convention (Chapters III and IV)
I.1.12	Awareness-raising campaign for parents to prevent early marriages	2022 - Q4 2024	2400.00	2,400.00	2400.00	No need to calculate additional costs ⁶⁴	MEST, MED, CSW, NGO	2 campaigns carried out annually	Kosovo Program for Gender Equality 2020 - 2024 (activity II.1.14)
Total Budget for Specific Objective I.1:			82,540.00	62,540.00	67,840.00				
Of which capital:			0	0	0				

⁶⁴ This activity is planned in the Kosovo Program for Gender Equality 2020 - 2024 and it is exactly about the activity II.1.14 of this document. As long as the cost for this activity is calculated in the reference document, there is no need to calculate additional costs in this Strategy. Calculations for additional costs should be made only if the cost for 2024 is missing in the reference document.

<i>Of which current:</i>			82,540	62,540.00	67,84				
			.00		0.00				
I.2	Specific Objective: Undertaking educational measures at all levels to prevent violence								
1	Indicator: Number of information sessions conducted for the staff of pre-university education institutions on identification marks, prevention and referral of cases of violence	0 (Guidelines are being prepared, sessions will be developed later)	60 sessions in 30 municipalities	16 sessions in the other 8 municipalities	The staff of pre-university education institutions trained and trained to identify violence as well as well informed not only on how to refer such identified cases, but also to intervene effectively in prevention as a whole.				
No.	Action	Deadline	Budget			Source of funding	Leading and supporting institution	Output	Reference documents
			2022	2023	2024				
I.2.1	Comprehensive research on aspects of preventing domestic violence through pre-university and university education	2022	20,000.00	X	X	Budget of the Government of Kosovo MESTI	MESTI, partner institutions	Report with recommendations	Core pre-university education curricula/subject programs University curricula/syllabus Istanbul Convention (Chapter III Articles 12, 13, 14 and 15)
I.2.2	Information sessions on violence with officials of municipal directorates of education, school principals, school psychologists/psychologists and academic units.	2022-2024	2,900.00	2,900.00	2,900.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo MESTI	MEST, MED schools, Academic units University Center for Human Rights, other partners.	More officials of municipal education directorates, school principals, school psychologists/psychologists informed about domestic violence	Istanbul Convention (Chapter III Articles 12, 13, 14 and 15)

								and violence against women and their role	
I.2.3	Addressing and monitoring the implementation of the recommendations arising from the comprehensive research	2023-2024	X	3,300.00	3,300.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo MESTI	MESTI	Curricula and additional materials that affect the prevention of domestic violence and violence against women.	Pre-university and university education policies
I.2.4	Preparation of a guide for the staff of pre-university education institutions regarding the identification signs of predispositions of domestic violence of children in schools, in order to prevent and refer to the responsible instances.	2022-2023	2,500.00	2,500.00	X	Budget of the Government of Kosovo MESTI	MESTI	Prepared guide in accordance with international standards and best practices	Istanbul Convention (Chapter III Articles 12, 13, 14 and 15)
I.2.5	Preparation and development of a training program for quality coordinators and school psychologists prevention, identification, treatment and referral of incidents of sexual harassment at school, as well as domestic violence and violence against women, in the responsible instances	2022-2024	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo MESTI	MESTI, Partners	2 sessions for participants from 10 municipalities per year/total of 30 municipalities for 3 years More quality coordinators and school psychologists informed and ready to prevent, identify, treat and refer incidents of sexual	Istanbul Convention (Chapter III Articles 12, 13, 14 and 15)

								harassment in schools and other forms of violence to the responsible instances	
I.2.6	Hiring and training a psychologist in every pre-university education institution at the national level	2022-2026	10,000.00	X	X	Budget of the Government of Kosovo	MESTI	All schools at the national level equipped with psychologists employed every year and trained	Legislation on Education Istanbul Convention (Chapter III Article 14)
I.2.7	Drafting and disseminating an information leaflet on the role of the education sector in the implementation of the Istanbul Convention	October 2022	11,750.00	X	X	Budget of the Government of Kosovo Donors	MESTI, OSCE, Council of Europe	Newsletter finalized and distributed to all educational institutions in Kosovo A new publication detailing the requirements of Article 14 of the Istanbul Convention will be ready by 2022, with the support of CoE	Istanbul Convention (Article 14) Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo
I.2.8	Information sessions with Parents' (Mothers' and Fathers') and Pupils' and Students' Councils on the equality between girls and boys and consequences of domestic violence	2026	X	X	X	Budget of the Government of Kosovo	MESTI, Pre-University Education Institutions	Regularly organized information sessions on an annual basis More parents (mothers and fathers) as well as more students informed about the equality between girls and	Istanbul Convention (Chapter III Articles 12, 13, 14)

								boys and consequences of domestic violence	
I.2.9	Peer education of girls and boys on prevention and identification of sexual harassment in schools and to maintain a critical attitude towards the negative and sexist portrayal of the image of women and girls in different areas of life	2022-2026	1,650.00	1,650.00	1,650.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo	MEST, Pre-University Education Institutions	Girls 'and boys' education programs on prevention and identification of sexual harassment in schools and to combat the negative and sexist portrayal of women and girls, organized on an annual basis	Istanbul Convention (Chapter III Articles 12, 13, 14)
	Total budget for the Specific Objective I.2:		52,300.00	13,850.00	11,350.00				
	<i>Of which capital:</i>		0	0	0				
	<i>Of which current:</i>		52,300.00	13,850.00	11,350.00				
I.3.	Enhancing cooperation between government, media and the private sector to promote measures to prevent and combat violence								
1	Number of media institutions and private businesses that are supported to adopt guidelines, self-regulatory standards and protocols to prevent discrimination, violence, sexual harassment and harassment in the workplace		0		Increased by 20%	Increased by 50%		Cooperation between government, media and private businesses has been strengthened and is accompanied by positive results in actions against domestic violence and violence against women. Preparation of self-regulatory means (protocols, guidelines, standards) to prevent discrimination, violence, sexual harassment and workplace harassment in media institutions and private businesses, is done with the	

									encouragement and support of the state.
2	Percentage of victims of physical or sexual harassment, by gender, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months (SDG Indicator 11.7.2)	It will be determined in 2022	Decreased by 10%	Decreased by 20%					As a result of the improved institutional performance and capacities of professionals, as well as due to the increase of trust in law enforcement institutions, the number of denunciations on cases of physical or sexual harassment in various settings, including in the world, will increase. therefore the percentage of victims of physical or sexual harassment will fall.
No.	Action	Deadline	Budget			Source of funding	Leading and supporting institution	Output	Reference documents
			2022	2023	2024				
I.3.1	Encourage the media to set guidelines and self-regulatory standards to increase respect for women's dignity, in order to help build positive gender roles and prevent violence against women	2022-2023	2,655.00	2,655.00	X	Budget of the Government of Kosovo	Media, Audiovisual Media Authority, MoJ / Office of the National Coordinator, AGE, NGO	The media are encouraged and supported to set and applies self-regulatory guidelines and standards that avoid discrimination and violence against women	Istanbul Convention (Chapter III Article 17)
I.3.2	Education of professionals and media professionals to deal more responsibly and professionally with issues of domestic violence and violence against women	2022-2024	1,650.00	1,650.00	1,650.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo	Media, Audiovisual Media Authority, Faculty of Journalism, Union of Journalists, MD / ZK AGE, NGO	More men and women professionals of visual and print media, who treat responsibly and pay due attention to domestic violence and violence against women	Istanbul Convention (Chapter III Articles 15, 17)
I.3.3	Increased number of women media professionals (journalists,	2022-2026	1,650.00	1,650.00	1,650.00	Budget of the Governme	Audiovisual Media Authority,	More women professionals in the media field	Istanbul Convention (Chapter III

	executives, analysts, etc.) as well as training them to access prepare and manage media information through technology.					nt of Kosovo	Faculty of Journalism, Union of Journalists, MoJ / Office of the National Coordinator, AGE, NGO	Women in the media trained to use technology in media information management	Articles 15, 17)
I.3.4	Urging to use non-sexist language and avoiding advertisements, or audiovisual materials written with sexist content and in favour of violent and discriminatory attitudes, in public and private media institutions	2022-2026	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo	Audiovisual Media Authority, Faculty of Journalism, Union of Journalists, MoJ / Office of the National Coordinator, AGE, NGO	TV shows, spots, advertisements and articles in public and private media use non-sexist, non-discriminatory and co-tolerant language against violence against women and domestic violence	Istanbul Convention (Chapter III Articles 15, 17)
I.3.5	Preparation and implementation of clear policies and functional grievance mechanisms that prohibit discriminatory, sexist content, or that support domestic violence and harmful effects of certain traditional or customary practices in the audiovisual and print media	2022-2026	3,250.00	3,250.00	3,250.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo	Audiovisual Media Authority, Faculty of Journalism, Union of Journalists, MoJ / Office of the National Coordinator, AGE, NGO	Clear and appeal mechanism and limited policies applicable in public and private media	Istanbul Convention (Chapter III Articles 15, 17)

I.3.6	Cooperation with media and information technology companies to avoid violence, sexual harassment or harassment of women and girls through social media and internet	2022-2026	420.00	420.00	420.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo	Media, ICT Companies, Union of Journalists, MoJ / Office of the National Coordinator, AGE, NGO	Girls and women are safer and protected from forms of violence they may endure while using the internet and social media	Istanbul Convention (Chapter III Articles 15, 17, Chapters IV and V)
I.3.7	Design and maintenance of various websites, to provide information for children and parents on the safe use of the Internet, social media and electronic communications	2022-2026	1,800.00	1800.00	1,800.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo	Media, ICT companies, Pre-University Education Institutions MoJ / Office of the National Coordinator, AGE, NGO	Children and parents more capable to navigate the internet safely Certain sites required for use by children and parents, equipped with security codes and control filters A manual to avoid violence and safe browsing the internet and social media, prepared and available to parents and children	Istanbul Convention (Chapter III Articles 15, 17, Chapters IV and V)
I.3.8	Encourage the media to report properly and analyze domestic violence and violence against women by reacting professionally and respecting the principles of ethics and protection of personal	2023-2026	X	1,650.00	1,650.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo	Media, Audiovisual Media Authority, Union of Journalists, MoJ / Office of the National Coordinator,	A manual on reporting and analysis of domestic violence and violence against women by audiovisual and print media, prepared and is made available to professionals for	Istanbul Convention (Chapter III Articles 15, 17,)

	data						AGE, NGO	implementation Media actively and positively involved in reporting and raising awareness on domestic violence and violence against women	
I.3.9	Investigation with priority of possible cases of attacks on journalists, domestic violence and hate crime, hate speech and discrimination, as well as cases that violate -the rights of persons of the LGBTI community with priority	2022-2026	5,550.00	5,550.00	5,550.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo	KJC KPC JA Kosovo Police NGOs Media institutions	Instances of attacks on journalists, domestic violence and hate crime, hate speech and discrimination, as well as cases of violations of the rights of LGBTI persons have been urgently investigated and reviewed. Number of decisions issued by the courts	Istanbul Convention (Chapter III, Articles 15 and 17)
I.3.10	Engagement of private sector in preventing violence by ensuring the health and well-being of all working women and men / employees in this sector as well as creating working conditions that prevent sexual harassment, persecution and violence.	2022-2026	2,600.00	2,600.00	2,600.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo Donors	Ministry of Economy and Finance Private sector MoJ / Office of the National Coordinator AGE NGO	Private companies are encouraged and supported to create protocols or guidelines to prevent violence, sexual harassment and persecution in the workplace	Istanbul Convention (Chapter III Article 17) ILO Convention C190 "Elimination of violence and harassment in the world of

									work"
I.3.11	Encourage and support the private sector to avoid the use of sexist, violent and harmful content in the design of goods and services as well as in their marketing	2022-2026	2,400.00	2,400.00	2,400.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo Donors	Ministry of Economy and Finance Private sector MoJ / Office of the National Coordinator AGE NGO	Private business engaged in developing ethical standards in designing and marketing of goods and services	Istanbul Convention (Chapter III Article 17)
I.3.12	Establishing encouraging incentives as well as monitoring and evaluating initiatives ⁶⁵ undertaken by the private sector to prevent and combat domestic violence and violence against women	2022-2026	3,650.00	3,650.00	3,650.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo Donors	Ministry of Economy and Finance Private sector MoJ / Office of the National Coordinator AGE NGO	Private sector is encouraged to take action against domestic violence and violence against women There is a monitoring and evaluation mechanism of these initiatives, based on which the level of stimulation of private businesses in this regard is determined.	Istanbul Convention (Chapter III Article 17)
	Total budget for the Specific Objective I.3:		28,625.00	30,275.00	27,620.00				
	<i>Of which capital:</i>		0	0	0				
	<i>Of which current:</i>		28,625	30,275.00	27,62				

⁶⁵ Providing information and training on domestic violence and violence against women for private sector employees; informing supervisory staff and preparing them to properly identify and refer cases of violence that may be encountered to their employees; Taking measures and creating facilities for young mothers, divorced women, employees who have been subject to violence, etc., are some of the initiatives that can be taken by the private sector in this regard.

			.00		0.00				
I.4	Specific Objective: Developing and implementing programs for the psycho-social treatment of violent perpetrators								
1	Number of perpetrators of domestic violence and violence against women treated in the psychological and social aspects		To be determined	Increased by 30%	Increased by 60%	The perpetrators of domestic violence are treated in the psycho-social aspect in accordance with international requirements and standards			
No.	Action	Deadline	Budget			Source of funding	Leading and supporting institution	Output	Reference documents
			2022	2023	2024				
I.4.1	Develop an analysis to understand the causes of domestic violence with a focus on the perpetrator	2022	10,000.00	X	X	Budget of the Government of Kosovo	MoJ MoH	Punitive measures to change violent behavior for perpetrators addicted to alcohol and intoxicants, provided and defined in the amendments to the Law on Protection From Domestic Violence	Istanbul Convention (Chapter II, Article 11, Chapter III, Article 16)
I.4.2	Assessment to understand measures imposed for perpetrators addicted to alcohol and intoxicants	2022	0	X	X	Budget of the Government of Kosovo Donors	MoJ MH	Situation assessment and recommendation on punitive measures to change violent behavior for perpetrators addicted to alcohol and intoxicants	Istanbul Convention (Chapter II, Article 11, Chapter III, Article 16)
I.4.3	Identify the needs for treatment of perpetrators of domestic violence and violence against women, and assessment of programs for this purpose	2022	1,650.00	X	X	Budget of the Government of Kosovo	MFLT, MoJ MoH, Forensics Institute	Evaluation report prepared with identified needs and suggestions for types of programs that may be set up	Istanbul Convention (Chapter III, Article 16)

						Donors			
I.4.4	Development of a package of modules for psycho-social treatment programs of perpetrators	2022-2023	3,000.00	3,000.00	X	Budget of the Government of Kosovo Donors	MFLT, MoJ MoH	Source package with modules of psycho-social treatment programs prepared	Istanbul Convention (Chapter II, Article 11, Chapter III, Article 16)
I.4.5	Training of staff of psycho-social treatment programs for perpetrators of domestic violence and violence against women, and perpetrators of sexual crimes	2022-2023	600.00	600.00	X	Budget of the Government of Kosovo Donors	MoJ MoH Independent institutions NGO	Personnel of psycho-social treatment programs of perpetrators of violence, trained and qualified	Istanbul Convention (Chapter II, Article 11, Chapter III, Article 16)
I.4.6	Implementation of psycho-social treatment programs for perpetrators of domestic violence and violence against women, as well as programs for perpetrators of sexual crimes	2024	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo Donors	MFLT, MoJ MoH	Treatment programs for perpetrators of domestic violence and violence against women, functional and with professionals trained for this purpose	Istanbul Convention (Chapter II, Article 11, Chapter III, Article 16)
I.4.7	Treatment and re-socialization of violent perpetrators while serving a sentence	Ongoing	0	0	0	Budget of the Government of Kosovo Donors	MoH MoJ Partners	Perpetrators of domestic violence and violence against women are educated to use non-violent behaviour and are treated while serving their sentences	Istanbul Convention (Chapter II, Article 11, Chapter III, Article 16)
I.4.8	Measuring the frequency of recidivism cases by sharing data on whether	Ongoing	0	0	0	Budget of the Governme	MoJ	Frequency of recidivist cases of domestic violence	Istanbul Convention (Chapter II,

	recidivist perpetrators were treated while serving their sentences, or subsequently in psycho-social programs designed for them					nt of Kosovo Donors		and violence against women decreases, as a result of psycho-social treatment of perpetrators during and after sentencing	Article 11, Chapter III, Article 16)
I.4.9	Engagement and capacity strengthening of the Kosovo Probation Service to monitor the rehabilitation of violent perpetrators	2022-2026	10,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo Donors	MoJ	Kosovo Probation Service engaged to monitor the rehabilitation of perpetrators of violence	Istanbul Convention (Chapter III, Article 16)
I.4.10	Creating a database of perpetrators who have received psycho-social services/treatment during and after serving their sentences, as well as perpetrators of sexual crimes and their ongoing updating.	2022-2024	11,000.00	1650.00	1650.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo Donors	MFLT, MoJ Partners, MoH, UP	Collected, disaggregated and regularly updated data	Istanbul Convention (Chapter II, Article 11, Chapter III, Article 16)
I.4.11	Preparation of the annual report on the rehabilitation of perpetrators of violence	2022-2026	0	0	0	Budget of the Government of Kosovo Donors	MFLT, MoJ Partners	Regularly published annual reports	Istanbul Convention (Chapter II, Article 11, Chapter III, Article 16)
I.4.12	Increasing the number of beds, preparation of the specific protocol and training of professionals in the Forensic	2022-2026	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo	Forensic Psychiatric Institution	Specific protocols and programs for the treatment of perpetrators addicted to substances, or with	

	Psychiatric Institution for perpetrators who are mentally ill and addicted to alcohol and drugs ⁶⁶							mental health problems, approved. Professionals trained to treat people addicted to substances or with mental health problems, as well as perpetrators of violence, in accordance with their age group Reduced cases of sending defendants into custody due to lack of beds	
	Total budget for the Specific Objective 1.4:		61,250.00	33,250.00	29,650.00				
	<i>Of which capital:</i>		22,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00				
	<i>Of which current:</i>		39,250.00	25,250.00	14,650.00				
	Total budget for the Strategic Objective I		224,715.00	146,915.00	136,460.00				
	<i>Of which capital:</i>		22,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00				
	<i>Of which current:</i>		202,715.00	131,915.00	121,460.00				

⁶⁶ Who should be treated with special protocols and programs in accordance with their age and the fact that in addition to addiction or mental health problems, are perpetrators of domestic violence and violence against women.

No.	Strategic and specific objectives, indicators and actions	Basic value	Provisional Objective [2024]	Last year's goal [2026]	Outcome
II.	Strategic Objective: Advancing and harmonizing public policies with international standards.				
1	Indicator: Number of indictments with adult and juvenile perpetrators, unsolved for each year	13 offenses with adult perpetrators and 43 offenses with juvenile perpetrators, for 2020	Reduced by 50%	Reduced by 90%	Reported cases of all forms of domestic violence and violence against women are investigated and punished in accordance with the law, updated and harmonized to international standards. Institutions coordinate actions and correctly implement harmonized public policies, as a result of which the number of unsolved criminal reports with adult and juvenile perpetrators is reduced, each year.
2	Indicator: Percentage of women abused by intimate partner	4% in 2021	Decreased by 10%	Decreased by 20%	As a result of the improved institutional performance and capacities of professionals, as well as due to the increase of trust in law enforcement institutions, the number of denunciations on cases of women raped by their intimate partner will increase, which will result in a decrease in the percentage. of women raped by intimate partner.
3	Indicator: Percentage of women and girls aged 15 and overexposed to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, disaggregated by the form of violence and by age (SGD indicator 5.2.1)	To be determined in 2022	Decreased by 10%	Decreased by 20%	As a result of the improved institutional performance and capacities of professionals, as well as due to the increase of trust in law enforcement institutions, the number of denunciations on cases of women raped by their intimate partner will increase, enabling the measurement of forms of violence. suffered by them and the age since this violence began to be exercised and reducing the overall percentage.
II.1	Specific Objective: Improving the legal framework to handle all cases of domestic violence and violence against women.				
1	Indicator: Number of legal acts and policies for protection against violence,	The current legal	50% complian	100% compliance	Approval of legal acts and policies for protection from domestic violence and violence against women, a priority

	improved and approved, disaggregated by type of legal act or policy		framework lacks the gender meaning of violence against women, especially outside the sphere of domestic violence ⁶⁷	ce with the Istanbul Convention	with the Istanbul Convention	of the Government of Kosovo. The gender meaning of violence against women, especially outside the sphere of domestic violence, is clearly reflected and in accordance with the Istanbul Convention, in all adopted legal acts and policies.			
No.	Action	Deadline	Budget			Source of funding	Leading and supporting institution	(Output	Reference documents
			2022	2023	2024				
II.1.1	Amendment/supplementation of the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence and harmonization with the Istanbul Convention and implementation of an ex-post evaluation of the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence	2022-2024	6000.00	X	X	Budget of the Government of Kosovo	Assembly/MoJ/NC OPM AGE	Law on Protection against Domestic Violence, amended, harmonized with the Istanbul Convention, adopted and evaluated	Istanbul Convention (Chapter V)
II.1.2	Full analysis of the civil and criminal legal framework on violence	2022	10,000.00	X	X	Budget of the Government	MoJ AGE	Analysis report with findings and recommendations, as	Convention on the Elimination of

⁶⁷ According to the report prepared by the Kosovo Women's Network "From laws to acts", May 2021. See: <https://Womensnetwork.org/ep-content/uploads/2021/05/KËN-GBV-Report-ALB-final.pdf>

	against women, domestic violence, ⁶⁸ as well as identification of measures to be taken to harmonize this legal framework with international instruments, including CEDAW and the Convention Istanbul					of Kosovo Donors	Specialized NGOs	well as suggestions for interventions in the civil and criminal legal framework, completed	All Forms of Discrimination against Women Istanbul Convention, etc.
II.1.3	Preparation and submission of draft acts for amending/ supplementing the legal framework, in accordance with the findings from the above analysis	2023	X	1,750.00	X	Budget of the Government of Kosovo	MoJ	Draft acts prepared in accordance with the findings from the analysis, consulted and sent to the Assembly for review and adoption	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women Istanbul Convention, etc.
II.1.4.	Amendment/supplementation of legislation to provide for exemption from court fees for the expertise needed in dealing with cases of domestic violence (psychologist, sign language interpreter, court fees, etc.)	2022-2024	0	0	0	Budget of the Government of Kosovo	KJC	Victims of violence released from court fees, expressed in the amendments to be adopted in the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence	Istanbul Convention
II.1.5	Review and enrich Standard Operating Procedures on integrated	2023	0	3,000.00	0	Government, Municipality and Donors	MoJ, Municipality, donors, AGE	Creating access for the provision of new, effective, accessible	Istanbul Convention, (Chapter IV)

⁶⁸ In this analysis, all forms of violence against women should be considered according to the Istanbul Convention and emphasis should be placed especially on the harmonization of: minimum age for marriage, issues of sexism and use of hate speech, issues of migration, asylum and deportation, etc. .

	services							and integrated interconnected services	
II.1.6	Drafting of the National Protocol on treatment of cases of sexual violence	2022	5000.00	X	X	Budget of the Government of Kosovo Donors	MoJ, KP, KPC, KJC, IFM, CSW, VPAO, MoH, specialized NGOs	Guidelines/protocols for the proper functioning of Coordination Mechanisms at the local level, prepared and approved in accordance with international standards	Istanbul Convention
II.1.7	Effective investigation and prompt police response to calls for help, proper management of dangerous situations and investigation of all allegations on violence against women and domestic violence, highlighting aggravating circumstances.	Ongoing	0	0	0	Budget of the Government of Kosovo	Police	Cases of domestic violence and violence against women are treated responsibly and with priority, without ignoring any aggravating circumstances	Istanbul Convention (Chapter V, Article 46 and Chapter VI)
II.1.8	Allotment of physical space for interviewing the victim and perpetrator of violence.	2022-2024	45,000.00	45,000.00	45,000.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo	Court, Police, Prosecution Office	The victim's right to confidentiality and privacy is ensured at all stages of case management, including in civil and criminal proceedings.	Istanbul Convention (Article 56)
II.1.9	Providing communication technology for interviewing the victim	2022-2023	25,000.00	15,000.00	X	Budget of the Government	Court, Police, Prosecution	The victim's right to confidentiality and privacy is ensured at	Istanbul Convention (Article 56)

	and perpetrator of violence.					of Kosovo Donor	Office	all stages of case management, including in civil and criminal proceedings.	
II.1.10	Invitation of victim advocates when the party addresses the court	2022-2026				Budget of the Government of Kosovo	Police, Court VAAO	Victim's advocate present even in cases when the request for a protective order is initiated by the party	Istanbul Convention (Article 56)
II.1.11	Monitoring the implementation of the legal provision for harsher sentences of recidivist perpetrators of violence	2022		X	X	Budget of the Government of Kosovo	KJC	Harsher sentences for recidivist perpetrators of domestic violence and violence against women, in accordance with applicable law	Istanbul Convention
II.1.12	Establishment of a digital monitoring system for adequate implementation of protective orders in accordance with the Law on Electronic Supervision and monitoring of the effectivity of this system	2023/2024		15,000.00	10,000.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo	MIA Police	Digital system set up Adequately conducted monitoring	Criminal Code
II.1.13	Review of the regulation on the internal work of victims' advocates (KPC)	2023	X	1,650.00	X	Budget of the Government of Kosovo	KPC	Reviewed regulation	
II.1.14	Reporting on the application of adhesion procedures in cases of domestic violence and violence against women	2022-2026				Budget of the Government of Kosovo	KJC	Reporting done regularly and upon request with detailed data	

						Donors			
II.1.15	Implementation of the peer review on criminal prosecution and judgement of domestic violence cases	2022	2,400.00	X	X	Budget of the Government of Kosovo Donors	KCK, KPC	Reports with recommendations finalized	
Total Budget for Specific Objective II.1:			93,400.00	81,400.00	55,000.00				
<i>Of which capital:</i>			70,000.00	75,000.00	55,000.00				
<i>Of which current:</i>			23,400.00	6,400.00	0				
II.2	Specific Objective: Strengthening capacities for handling cases of domestic violence and violence against women.								
1	Indicator: Number of training curricula for men and women professional prepared and developed		4		8		12	Improved and unified curricula to strengthen the capacity of men and women professionals to handle deal cases of violence effectively	
2	Indicator: Number of men and women professionals trained to deal with cases of violence on an annual basis		Data will be collected for 2020-2021		Increased by 10%		Increased by 20%	Men and women professionals of all institutions responsible for dealing with cases of domestic violence and violence against women, trained and skilled	
No.	Action	Deadline	Budget			Source of funding	Leading and supporting institution	Output	Reference documents
			2022	2023	2024				
II.2.1	Development of annual training curricula for capacity building of judges/prosecutors, professional associates,	December 2022, 2023, 2024	1800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo	Academy of Justice (AJ) Kosovo Judicial Council (KJC) Kosovo	Training curriculum designed and approved ⁶⁹	Strategy for the functional review of the rule of law 2021

⁶⁹ The CoE project is working together with the Academy of Justice to strengthen the knowledge of legal professionals to deal with cases of violence against women and domestic violence.

	victim advocates and other relevant actors for the fair and effective implementation of legislation focusing on the punishment of perpetrators of domestic violence as well as persons violating protective orders.						Prosecutorial Council (KPC)		Strategic Plan of the Prosecutorial System 2019-2021 Training program of the Academy of Law
II.2.2	Providing training for judges and prosecutors on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence and gender-based crimes - the criminal aspect.	Ongoing	1,650.00	1,650.00	1,650.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo	Academy of Justice (AJ) Kosovo Judicial Council (KJC) Kosovo Prosecutorial Council (KPC)	5 specialized training sessions held during the year	JA training calendar Criminal Code of the Republic of Kosovo, Instruction of the Supreme Court no. 113/20120 regarding the legal qualification and handling domestic violence cases according to the KPC and Istanbul Convention.
II.2.3	Providing training for judges on the civil aspect , respectively court	Ongoing	1,650.00	1,650.00	1,650.00	Budget of the Government	Academy of Justice of (AJ) Kosovo	2 trainings held during the year	JA training calendar

	procedures for deciding on requests for protection orders, and concerning the division of joint property after divorce, alimony, financial maintenance of the spouse, etc.					nt of Kosovo	Prosecutorial Council (KPC)		
II.2.4	Capacity building of judges and prosecutors in handling cases when perpetrators with mental disorders are involved in criminal-civil proceedings.	2022-2023	1,680	1,680	X	Budget of the Government of Kosovo	Academy of Justice KJC KPC	Number of training sessions held At least 60 judges and prosecutors trained Equal and non-discriminatory treatment of persons with mental disorders, in order to respect their physical integrity and human dignity	
II.2.5	Capacity building of judges and prosecutors in handling cases of gender-based violence, domestic violence and sexual harassment with a victim-centred approach and explanation of trauma and trauma impact on the victim.	2022-2024	1,650.00	1,650.00	1,650.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo	Academy of Justice KJC KPC	2 joint trainings held during the year	Istanbul Convention

II.2.6	Review of training curricula and modules in the training department of the Kosovo Police and their updating according to the requirements of the national and international legal framework (including the gender perspective) on professional capacity building of cadets and police officers	2022	2,320.00	X	X	Budget of the Government of Kosovo Donor	Kosovo Academy for Public Safety (KAPS), Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)/Kosovo Police (KP), AGE	Reviewed curriculum for building the professional capacity of cadets and police officers Updated and unified training modules for strengthening the capacities of police officers focusing on domestic violence and violence against women	Istanbul Convention
II.2.7	Training of newly appointed men and women police officers on handling with cases of domestic violence and violence against women	Ongoing	1650.00	1650.00	1650.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo	Kosovo Police AGE	More informed men and women police officers specialized in handling domestic violence cases and violence against women	Istanbul Convention (Article 15)
II.2.8	Training of police officers on the definition of gender-based violence and sexual harassment under the laws of Kosovo, as well as on how to handle these cases in accordance with the Criminal Code of Kosovo	2022	1650.00	X	X	Budget of the Government of Kosovo	Kosovo Academy for Public Safety Kosovo Police AGE	Number of trainings held Number of police officers who have participated in trainings Update training courses in accordance with the amendments to the Criminal Code related to gender-based violence and sexual harassment, with a focus on the	

								victim.	
II.2.9	Joint training sessions on addressing and combating domestic violence and violence against women, for police officers, prosecutors/judges on duty, Victims' Advocate, CSW, MoH, VA, Forensic Psychiatry , in the criminal and civil aspect and trauma impact on the victim	Ongoing	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo	AJ, AGE, KP, KPC, KJC CSW, MH, VAPO, Forensic Psychiatry, General Council of Social and Family Services (GCSFS)	Men and women employees informed and specialized in handling cases of domestic violence and violence against women, through a coordinated multi-sectoral approach, including access to information about the trauma, prioritizing the restoration of the victim's sense of safety, choice and control	Istanbul Convention (Article 15)
II.2.10	Training of VAAO staff	2022-2024	1,250.00	1,250.00	1,250.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo	VAAO-OCSP, Academy of Justice, OPDAT, OSCE, GIZ	VAPO staff profiled and trained	Istanbul Convention (Article 15)
II.2.11	Training sessions on policies against domestic violence and violence against women in the sector of protection and social welfare	2022	1250.00	X	X	Budget of the Government of Kosovo	MFLT CSW	Men and women professionals in the sector of protection and social welfare, trained on issues of violence against women and domestic violence	Istanbul Convention (Article 15)
II.2.12	Curriculum preparation and development of trainings for health	2022	1050.00	X	X	Budget of the Government	MoH	Men and women professionals in the health sector trained	Istanbul Convention

	workers for identification, treatment and referral of cases of domestic violence and violence against women					nt of Kosovo		in issues of violence against women and domestic violence	(Article 15)
II.2.13	Curriculum development and training of experts who are licensed for psychological expertise, for the elements of psychological violence in accordance with the legislation applicable to this form of violence	2022-2024	1050.00	1050.00	1050.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo Donor	MFLT	Experts trained to implement applicable legislation	Instruction of the Supreme Court of Kosovo - Regarding the legal qualification and handling cases of domestic violence according to the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kosovo with number GJ.A.SuA 113/2020 dated 12.06.2020
II.2.14	Joint trainings between judges, prosecutors and police officers to stop the issuance of acquittal verdict of despite the statements of victims of violence, applying mainly the prosecution of this	2022-2024	1,250,00	1,250,00	1,250,00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo Donors	KJC KPC KP	Duly implementation of legislation and standards for protection from domestic violence	Istanbul Convention

	criminal offense								
II.2.15	Holding regular lectures, on an annual basis, by judges and prosecutors / prosecutors to raise awareness of professionals and young professionals regarding the handling of cases of domestic violence and violence against women	2022-2026	600.00	600.00	600.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo	KJC and KPC	Lectures held annually Awareness of more professionals raised	Istanbul Convention (Chapter III, Articles 12, 13, 14 and 15)
II.2.16	Upgrading and development of community policing and intelligence-led policing related to domestic violence and violence against women, and training of Police Cybercrime Investigation Unit on online violence against women	2024-2026	X	X	35,000.00	Budget of the Government of Kosovo Donor	MIA/KP	Community policing developed in support of the identification and prevention of domestic violence cases. The Police Cybercrime Investigation Unit trained to prosecute and prevent online violence against women and girls	Istanbul Convention
	Total budget for the Specific Objective II.2:		30,500.00	24,230.00	57,550.00				
	<i>Of which capital:</i>		0	0	0				
	<i>Of which current:</i>		30,500.00	24,230.00	57,550.00				
	Total budget for the Strategic Objective II:		123,900.00	105,630.00	112,550.00				
	<i>Of which capital:</i>		70,000.00	75,000	55,000				

	<i>Of which current:</i>		53,900.00	30,630.00	57,550.00				
No.	Strategic and specific objectives, indicators and actions		Basic value	Provisional Objective [2024]	Last year's goal [2026]	Output			
III.	Strategic Objective: Institutional strengthening in prevention and addressing of domestic violence								
1	Indicator: Percentage of institutions members of central and local coordination mechanisms that are empowered and properly implement joint responsibilities in accordance with the Istanbul Convention.		It will be determined in 2022	Increased by 50%	Increased by 80%	Central and local coordinating mechanisms established, functional and efficient in the implementation of actions for the prevention and protection of domestic violence and violence against women. The member institutions of these mechanisms properly implement the joint responsibilities in accordance with the Istanbul Convention.			
2	Indicator: Percentage of cases of violence reported to responsible institutions (SDG Indicator 16.3.1)		It will be determined in 2022	Increased by 10%	Increased by 20%				
3	Indicator: Number of domestic violence cases with a final court decision		It will be determined in 2022	Increased by 50%	Increased by 100%				
III.1	Specific Objective: Strengthening the inter-institutional coordination group at the central level								
1	Indicator: Adequate budget line for strengthening the Office of the National Coordinator against Domestic Violence, for effective coordination and monitoring of actions against violence.		It will be determined in 2022	Increased by 15%	Increased by 30%	Kosovo Government designates an appropriate budget for the strengthening of the Office of the National Coordinator against Domestic Violence, to enable effective coordination and monitoring of actions against domestic violence and violence against women			
No.	Action	Deadline	Budget			Source of funding	Leading and supporting institution	Output	Reference documents
			2022	2023	2024				
III.1.1	Establishing and making functional the support	2022	10,780.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	Budget of Kosovo	MoJ/NC	Office established staff recruited in	Istanbul Convention

	mechanism of the Office of the National Coordinator for Protection against Domestic Violence					Government Donors		appropriate numbers for the purposes and responsibilities of this office	
III.1.2	Training and strengthening of the capacities of the staff of the Office of the National Coordinator for Protection against Domestic Violence in terms of monitoring and evaluation of the entire legislation and policies against domestic violence and violence against women	2022	3,000.00	X	X	Budget of Kosovo Government Donors	MoJ/NC	Staff trained and capable of application of monitoring and evaluation processes ⁷⁰	Istanbul Convention
III.1.3	Establishing a system for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the National Strategy on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women 2022-2026	2022	X	X	1,015.00	Budget of Kosovo Government Donors	MoJ/NC	A monitoring-evaluation system established and functional Tools to be used by the central and local level to monitor the implementation of activities and objectives of the strategy prepared and agreed	Istanbul Convention
III.1.4	Capacity building for the	2024	3,000.0	X	X	Budget of	ONC-MoJ,	Capacities of	

⁷⁰ The final GREVIO evaluation report and the formal meetings organized in this context will provide guidance on improving compliance with Article 10 of the Istanbul Convention, in particular the role of the Office of the National Coordinator for Protection from Domestic Violence.

	stakeholder responsible for the implementation of the objectives and activities of this strategy, at the central and local level		0			Kosovo Government Donors	MFLT, Municipalities	implementing partners enhanced and strengthened	Istanbul Convention
III.1.5	Periodic monitoring of the implementation of the National Strategy on Protection from Domestic Violence and Violence against Women and its action plan, and publication of relevant results	Ongoing (on annual basis)	X	X	X	Budget of Kosovo Government Donors	MoJ/NC Institutions responsible for implementation at the central and local level NGOs International organizations acting in this area	Standard format of the monitoring report prepared by the Office of the National Coordinator. Data on Strategy implementation progress collected every six months from all responsible actors. Monitoring report with detailed data according to strategic and specific objectives, published annually on the MoJ website	Istanbul Convention
III.1.6	Defining under the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence the responsibility of the Office of the National Coordinator as a state body that supervises the	2022	5000.00	X	X	Budget of Kosovo Government Donors	MoJ/NC	Profiling and training of the staff of the Office of the National Coordinator on recognition, coordination and monitoring of the	Istanbul Convention

	coordination, monitors the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, as well as reporting on the implementation of this Convention in GREVIO							implementation of the Istanbul Convention ⁷¹ Reports prepared and submitted according to GREVIO requirements	
III.1.7	Capacity building of the state body and other institutions responsible for reporting to GREVIO	2022	1,350.00	X	X	Budget of Kosovo Government Donors	MoJ/NC AGE	Professionals trained to prepare reports in GREVIO according to standards ⁷²	Istanbul Convention
III.1.8	Developing a report on the response of the responsible institutions in cases of domestic violence and violence against women and assessing the possibilities for inspection regarding the assistance provided by the responsible institutions and the quality of inter-institutional cooperation	2022-2026	0	0	0	Budget of Kosovo Government Donors	MoJ/NC	Assistance provided by responsible institutions and the quality of inter-institutional cooperation, appreciated. Report on the response by the responsible institutions in cases of domestic violence and violence against women prepared and published	
III.1.9	Publication of best practices identified	Every year				Budget of Kosovo	MoJ/NC	Report on the best practices of the	

⁷¹ The final GREVIO evaluation report and the formal meetings organized in this context will provide guidance on improving compliance with Article 10 of the Istanbul Convention, in particular the role of the Office of the National Coordinator for Protection from Domestic Violence.

⁷² *Ibid.*

	during the operation of responsible institutions					Government Donors		functioning of the responsible institutions published	
III.1.10	Developing co-operation relations with authorities of other countries to strengthen international cooperation in the fight against domestic violence and violence against women		3000.00	3000.00	3000.00	Budget of Kosovo Government Donors	MoJ/NC	International cooperation in the fight against domestic violence and violence against women, with authorities of other countries, established and strengthened	
Total budget for Specific Objective III.1:			23,130.00	8,000.00	9,015.00				
<i>Of which capital:</i>			0	0	0				
<i>Of which current:</i>			23,130.00	8,000.00	9,015.00				
III.2	Specific Objective: Establishing and strengthening coordination mechanisms at the local level for the management of cases of violence.								
1	Indicator: Number of Local Coordination Mechanisms for managing cases of domestic violence and violence against women, set up throughout the country, with local coordinators and clearly defined budget support	20	28	38	Local Coordination Mechanisms for managing cases of domestic violence and violence against women, established and functional in all municipalities of Kosovo				
No.	Action	Deadline	Budget			Source of funding	Leading and supporting institution	Output	Reference documents
			2022	2023	2024				
III.2.1	Extending the multi-sectoral coordinated approach to addressing domestic violence and violence against women	2022-2024	855.00	855.00	855.00	Budget of Kosovo Government	MoJ/NC, Municipalities, All institutions responsible for being members	Coordination Mechanisms established throughout Kosovo, in line with the multi-	Istanbul Convention (Article 7)

	throughout Kosovo, through the establishment of Coordination Mechanisms in municipalities where they are not available					Municipalities Donors	of CM at the local level, NGO	sectoral coordinated approach of the Istanbul Convention	
III.2.2	Development of guidelines/protocols for functioning and operating standards on coordination mechanisms at the local level, in accordance with the coordinated multi-sectoral approach.	2022	1,650.00	X	X	Budget of Kosovo Government Municipalities Donors	MoJ/NC, MLGA AGE	Guidelines/protocols for the proper functioning of Coordination Mechanisms at the local level prepared and approved in accordance with international standards	Istanbul Convention (Article 7)
III.2.3	Providing sufficient financial resources for the functioning of the Coordination Mechanisms at the local level	2022-2026	2200.00	2200.00	2200.00	Budget of Kosovo Government Municipalities Donors	MFLT, MoJ/NC, Municipalities, All institutions responsible for being members of CM at the local level, NGOs	Full-time Coordinators of Coordination Mechanisms to be appointed in each municipality. Coverage of coordination costs and activities of Coordination Mechanisms from the annual budget of the municipality	Istanbul Convention
III.2.4	Capacity building/strengthening of members of the Local Level Coordination	2022-2024	0	0	0	Budget of Kosovo Government	MoJ/NC AGE Municipalities Police	Periodic joint training sessions of the members of the Coordination	Istanbul Convention (Article 7)

	Mechanisms through a periodic training session on dealing with cases of domestic violence and violence against women, through a coordinated multi-sectoral approach					Municipalities Donors	MFLT/CSW MoH VAAO NGO	Mechanisms developed on an annual basis Professionals from all areas trained to adequately and responsibly deal with cases of domestic violence and violence against women	
III.2.5	Supporting the municipalities in breaking down this strategy into local strategies, including the drafting of work plans of the Coordination Mechanisms.	2022	915.00	X	X	Budget of Kosovo Government Municipalities Donors	MoJ/NC MLGA AGE Municipalities NGO	Strategy 2022-2026 broken down into applicable and easily monitored local action plans	
	Total budget for Specific Objective III.2:		5,620.00	3,055.00	3,055.00				
	<i>Of which capital:</i>		0	0	0				
	<i>Of which current:</i>		5,620.00	3,055.00	3,055.00				
III.3	Specific Objective: Advancing inter-institutional coordination and cooperation between the central and local level and Civil Society Organizations.								
1	Indicator: Permanent budget line designated to NGOs working closely on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, in terms of prevention, protection (excluding shelters), reintegration and empowerment of victims/survivors		It will be determined in 2022	Increased by 10%	Increased by 30%			Specialized Civil Society Organizations working closely to implement the Istanbul Convention on Prevention, Protection and Reintegration, backed by financial resources	

No.	Action	Deadline	Budget			Source of funding	Leading and supporting institution	Output	Reference documents
			2022	2023	2024				
III.3.1	Organizing regular consultation round tables with NGOs and civil society during the preparation and updating of the legal framework and policies on protection against domestic violence and violence against women	2022-2026	1,025.00	1,025.00	1,025.00	Budget of Kosovo Government Municipalities Donors	MoJ/NC AGE Municipalities Institutions responsible for drafting the legal or institutional framework related to domestic violence and violence against women	Legal and policy framework for domestic violence and violence against women, updated in consultation and cooperation with specialized NGOs and civil society	Istanbul Convention
III.3.2	Support from central and local state bodies, as well as working together with civil society and NGOs, as esteemed partners in the implementation of the Istanbul Convention (<i>drafting joint implementation plans</i>)	2022-2026	1,025.00	1,025.00	1,025.00	Budget of Kosovo Government Municipalities Donors	MoJ/NC AGE Municipalities	Istanbul Convention recognized and understood to be properly implemented by NGOs and civil society	Istanbul Convention
III.3.3	Strengthening the capacity of NGOs to properly report the implementation of activities on domestic violence and violence against women, in	2022-2026	1050.00	1050.00	1050.00	Budget of Kosovo Government Municipalities	MoJ/NC AGE Municipalities	Relevant NGO staff and civil society, well informed on adequate reporting according to Istanbul Convention standards ⁷³	Istanbul Convention

⁷³ In the context of the GREVIO evaluation, the CoE can support civil society in providing shadow reporting if required.

	accordance with the requirements and standards of the Istanbul Convention					Donors			
III.3.4	Adequate funding of NGOs working closely on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, in terms of prevention, including NGOs working with boys and men, and providing prevention and rehabilitation services with perpetrators of violence	2022-2026	0	0	0	Budget of Kosovo Government Municipalities Donors	MFLT MoJ/NC AGE Municipalities MCYS	NGOs operating under the Istanbul Convention, mainly in terms of prevention and those focusing on boys and men or rehabilitation services for perpetrators of violence, supported by financial and infrastructural resources	Istanbul Convention
	Total budget for Specific Objective III.3:		3,100.00	3,100.00	3,100.00				
	<i>Of which capital:</i>		0	0	0				
	<i>Of which current:</i>		3,100.00	3,100.00	3,100.00				
III.4	Specific Objective: Researching, collecting and updating of inter-institutional data for case identification.								
1	Indicator: Database with administrative data for cases handled in a multi-sectoral manner coordinated, functional and regularly updated by professionals trained for this purpose.		Database 65% functional	Database 100% functional			Relevant specialists of institutions such as: Police, Victims' Advocates, Centers for Social Work, Prosecution, Courts and Shelters, trained to effectively maintain a functional database of cases handled. Administrative data for cases handled in a multi-sectoral coordinated manner, updated by all responsible institutions and in real-time		
2	Indicator: Percentage of young men and women aged 18-29 who		To be determined in 2022	Decreased by 10%	Decreased		As a result of the increase of institutional professionalism, but also of the improvement of the way the data is		

	experienced sexual violence by age 18 (SDG Indicator 16.2.3)					by 20%	collected and kept, it will be possible to identify an increasing number of cases of young women who have suffered sexual violence in their childhood, namely due to the growing belief that this form of violence should be denounced and that they too can be treated and helped to be empowered. As a final result, the percentage of young women who have experienced sexual violence will fall.		
No.	Action	Deadline	Budget			Source of funding	Leading and supporting institution	Output	Reference documents
			2022	2023	2024				
III.4.1	Preparation of a guide on the type of data (administrative and through research) as well as the methodology of data collection and analysis, in accordance with the definitions and requirements of the Istanbul Convention	2022	2,250.00	X	X	Budget of Kosovo Government Donors	MoJ AGE KAS	Guide prepared with the defined methodology ⁷⁴	Istanbul Convention (Article 11)
III.4.2	Strengthening the capacities of the responsible central and local institutions for the collection of administrative data in accordance with the methodology agreed upon above	2022	0	X	X	Budget of Kosovo Government Donors	MoJ AGE KAS Partners	Responsible officers for collecting administrative data on domestic violence and violence against women, trained and qualified	Istanbul Convention (Article 11)
III.4.3	Mobilizing and coordinating with stakeholders (such as	2022	0	X	X	Budget of Kosovo Government	MoJ AGE Institute of	Identified partners and collaborators, agreed on the	Istanbul Convention (Article 11)

⁷⁴ The authorities are encouraged to consider the Council of Europe Report on "Mapping Support Services for Victims of Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence: Methodology and Tools". View: <https://rm.coe.int/seminar-pristina-report-eng/16807316df>

	Higher Education and Research Institutions, NGOs, field experts, independent institutions, etc.) to agree on the methodology of data collection and processing through researches					nt Donors	Statistics Partners	methodology and application of international standards	
III.4.4	Conducting periodic national surveys (every 4 years) on the phenomenon, size, profile of perpetrators and the perception of citizens of domestic violence and violence against women.	2023	X	2,400.00	X	Budget of Kosovo Government Donors	MoJ MFLT AGE Partners	A study report published, with detailed and disaggregated data	Istanbul Convention (Article 11)
III.4.5	Strengthening the capacities of officers of responsible institutions integrated in the database against domestic violence, in identifying cases in the application during the recording process	2022	0	X	X	Budget of Kosovo Government Donors	MoJ/ONCPDW Responsible institutions	Officers/database entry officers, trained and qualified to perform their duties responsibly	Istanbul Convention (Article 11)
III.4.6	Real-time recording/updating of data by the six institutions integrated into the database against domestic violence	Ongoing	0	0	0	Budget of Kosovo Government Donors	MoJ, KP, KPC, KJC, CSW, VA and Shelters.	Complete database with updated real-time data	Istanbul Convention (Article 11)
III.4.7	Generation of statistics and preparation of periodic statistical	Ongoing	0	0	0	Budget of Kosovo Governme	MoJ/ONCPDW	Quarterly and annual reports with updated, prepared and	Istanbul Convention (Article 11)

	bulletins on the number of cases reported and handled in a multidisciplinary manner					nt Donors		published statistics	
	Total budget for Specific Objective III.4:		2,250.00	2,400.00	0				
	<i>Of which capital:</i>		0	0	0				
	<i>Of which current:</i>		2,250.00	2,400.00	0				
III.5.	Specific Objective: Improving access to justice for victims/survivors of violence								
1	Indicator: Number of victims/survivors of violence who receive free legal services	It will be determined in 2022	Increased by 40%	Increased by 70%	Access of victims/survivors of domestic violence and violence against women receiving free legal services improved				
2	Indicator: Number of women with access to justice	Every 1.83 in 4 women	Every 2.5 in 4 women	Every 4 in 4 women	Improved access to justice				
No.	Action	Deadline	Budget			Source of funding	Leading and supporting institution	Output	Reference documents
			2022	2023	2024				
III.5.1	Informing victims/survivors of domestic violence and violence against women, and the general public, of their rights and services where they can receive assistance, including free legal aid for persons exposed to violence, in a language they understand	2022-2026	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	Budget of Kosovo Government Donors	MoJ/ONCPDW FLAA AGE Police Judiciary Municipalities Members of Coordination Mechanisms CSW NGO Office of the	Information on the rights and protection of victims of domestic violence and violence against women, and free legal aid, prepared in clear and understandable language and disseminated to the community	Istanbul Convention (Article 19)

							State Prosecutor		
III.5.2	Preparation and dissemination of information in official languages and appropriate for persons with special needs (Braille, etc.), on the legislation in force, the protection provided and relevant institutions where victims / survivors of domestic violence and violence against women	2022-2026	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	Budget of Kosovo Government Donors	MoJ/Coordinator's Office AGE Kosovo Journalists Association MESTI GEOs and CMs at the local level, Human rights institutions NGOs International institutions	Awareness materials for the recognition of forms of domestic violence and violence against women as well as for the protection that exists, prepared and distributed every year in several languages and according to the Braille alphabet Awareness information also disseminated through social media	Istanbul Convention (Chapter III, Articles 12, 13 and 17)
III.5.3	Organizing a week for victims' rights, with a special focus on victims of various forms of criminal offenses of domestic violence and violence against women, as provided for in the Istanbul Convention ⁷⁵	Ongoing (every year)	5000.00	5000.00	5000.00	Budget of Kosovo Government Donors	VAMO, OSP	More information and awareness on the rights of victims/survivors of domestic violence and violence against women Preparation of relevant materials and (depending on the format) an	Victims' Rights Week Istanbul Convention (Chapter IV, Articles 18, 19)

⁷⁵ The Istanbul Convention covers the following offenses: domestic violence (physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence), persecution, sexual violence, including rape, sexual harassment, forced marriages, female genital mutilation, abortion or forced sterilization. See: <https://rm.coe.int/168046246b>

								information stand for women/ victims will be prepared by the CoE ⁷⁶	
III.5.4	Information sessions with different groups of women, young women, girls, men, young people and boys, on gender roles and the existence of coordination mechanisms for protection from domestic violence and violence against women at the local level, as well as protection, treatment and access in justice through these mechanisms.	2022-2026				Budget of Kosovo Government Donors	Municipalities / GEOs Member institutions of the Coordination Mechanisms NGOs	Information sessions held in all municipalities where it exists and where Coordination Mechanisms will be established More different groups of women, young women, girls, men, young people and boys, informed about the protection, treatment of access to justice through these mechanisms.	Istanbul Convention (Chapter III, Articles 7, 12 and 13, Chapter IV, Articles 18, 19)
III.5.5	Facilitating access to justice for citizens who do not have sufficient funds, especially for victims of gender-based violence, sexual violence, non-majority communities and displaced persons, as well as free legal aid support for persons exposed to	Ongoing	0	0	0	Budget of Kosovo Government Donors	The Agency for Free Legal Aid as well as specialized NGOs KJC KPC	Number of citizens who have received free services for access to justice, (including cases exposed to violence in court proceedings), disaggregated by ethnicity and gender of beneficiaries	

⁷⁶ Under the Council of Europe Project “Reinforcing the fight against violence against women and domestic violence: Phase III”, Outcome 2.2

	violence in court proceedings								
III.5.6	Ensuring sustainable funding and the presence of the Agency for Free Legal Aid in all municipalities, by increasing the number of legal aid officers trained on the provision of online legal aid, in its regional offices	2022/2023	2,000.00	2,000.00	X	Budget of Kosovo Government Donors	The Agency for Free Legal Aid as well as specialized NGOs, etc.	The number of legal aid officers in the Agency's regional offices has increased	
III.5.7	Increasing cooperation between the Agency for Free Legal Aid and Non-Governmental Organizations that provide free legal aid	Ongoing	0	0	0	Budget of the Government of Kosovo	Agency for Free Legal Aid Regional offices for free legal aid NGOs that provide free legal aid	Memorandums of Understanding reached between the Agency for Free Legal Aid and Non-Governmental Organizations which provide free legal aid	
III.5.8	Informing the public and promoting through activities the Crime Victims Compensation Program ⁷⁷	Ongoing	3.000.00	4.000.00		Budget of the Government of Kosovo	MoJ Crime Victim Compensation Commission	The right to compensation for crime victims has been promoted through awareness campaigns, debates or other forms of promotion.	
III.5.	Awareness-raising of	2022 Q4	10,000.			No need	GE, Victim	Campaigns	Kosovo

⁷⁷ Kosovo Law 05/L-036 on Crime Victim Compensation (See: <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=10936>) regulates the right to compensation for victims of violent crimes and their dependents. The law was adopted in 2015 listing violent crimes compensated by the Victims Compensation Fund. Crimes to be compensated include: trafficking in human beings, rape, child sexual abuse, murder, and domestic violence crimes as defined by Law on Protection against Domestic Violence.

9	society through advocacy and awareness of access to justice focusing on property rights, gender-based violence, survivors of sexual violence of war and other rights arising under the relevant legislation		00			for additional costs ⁷⁸	Advocates-SPO, Ombudsperson Donors, civil society	implemented	Program for Gender Equality 2020 - 2024, activity III.1.6
	Total budget for Specific Objective III54:		30,700.00	21,700.00	15,700.00				
	<i>Of which capital:</i>		0	0	0				
	<i>Of which current:</i>		30,700.00	21,700.00	15,700.00				
	Total budget for Strategic Objective III:		64,800.00	38,255.00	30,870.00				
	<i>Of which capital:</i>		0	0	0				
	<i>Of which current:</i>		64,800.00	38,255.00	30,870.00				
No.	Strategic and specific objectives, indicators and actions		Basic value	Provisional Objective [2024]	Last year's goal [2026]	Outcome			
IV.	Strategic Objective: Provision of general services and specialized support services for victims								
1	Indicator: Permanent annual budget line determined according to an adequate gender analysis dedicated to the operation of specialized support service centers for all forms of violence.		Budget for shelters in 2020: 495,000 EUR	Increased by 5 %	Increased by 10%	The operation of specialized support service centers for all forms of violence is supported by the necessary budget from the central and local government, despite the situations of humanitarian crises and natural disasters.			

⁷⁸ This activity is planned under Kosovo Program for Gender Equality 2020 - 2024 and it is precisely the activity III.1.6 of this document. As long as the cost for this activity is calculated in the reference document, there is no need to calculate additional costs in this Strategy. Calculations for additional costs should be made only if the cost for 2024 is missing in the reference document

2	Indicator: Number of women that enjoy property rights same to men	Every 0.732 in 1 woman	Every 0.85 in 1 woman	Every 1 in 1 woman	Improving the property rights of woman as guarantee for sustainable and long term empowerment				
IV.1	Specific Objective: Support and strengthening of the specialized support services for victims/survivors from all groups⁷⁹ and child victims and witnesses of violence								
1	Indicator: Number of specialized services for survivors of violence expanded and strengthened, disaggregated by type of service, target group and characteristics of target groups	It will be determined in 2022	Increased by 10 %	Increased by 30 %	Specialized support services for survivors of domestic violence and violence against women, expanded, strengthened and functional, in accordance with the requirements/standards of the Istanbul Convention				
No.	Action	Deadline	Budget			Source of funding	Leading and supporting institution	Output	Reference documents
			2022	2023	2024				
IV.1.1	Advocacy at the central and local levels to increase existing funding.	2022-2024	0	0	0	Kosovo budget and donors	MoJ, MFLT, MoH Municipalities	Budget growth and sustainable funding	
IV.1.2	Increasing human resources capacities, employment of psychologists and social workers according to the profiling required for specialized support services in public institutions and specialized NGOs in proportion to the number of inhabitants in each municipality	2022-2024	10,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	Kosovo budget and donors	MoJ, MFLT, MoH Municipalities	Satisfying the minimum professional and structural standards Employment of at least one social worker per 20 victims in each CSW. Specialized psycho-social counseling service tailored to the needs of special groups	Istanbul Convention, Law on Public Officials, LSFS, Law on Professions
IV.1.3	Functioning of the	2022-	0	0	0	Kosovo	MoH	Functional and	Istanbul

⁷⁹ “From all groups” means from urban and rural areas, from ethnic minorities, with disabilities, LGBTI +, the elderly, single mothers, girls mothers, migrants and asylum seekers, etc.

	National Helpline for all forms of violence against women and domestic violence, available 24/7 in all official languages in Kosovo, in accordance with the requirements of the Istanbul Convention	2026				budget and donors	MFLT MoJ/NCDF AGE	efficient Helpline, with nationwide service, available 24/7, dedicated to all forms of violence against women and domestic violence, with service in all official languages in Kosovo and meeting the standards of the Istanbul Convention	Convention
IV.1.4	Enhancing the professional skills of the current staff and the new staff involved in reintegration and empowerment services, through workshops and training sessions, for dealing with cases of domestic violence and violence against women	2022-2024	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	Government, Municipality and donors	KIPA, ONC-MoJ, GCSFS, MoH Specialized NGOs Council of Europe	Validated module, professional capacity building ⁸⁰ List of staff who have attended specialized training sessions	Istanbul Convention (Article 15)
IV.1.5	Supporting shelters with continuous funding	2023-2026	320,000.00	320,000.00	320,000.00	Budget of Kosovo Government	Municipalities, Ministry of Justice, Agency for Administration of Sequestered or Confiscated Assets, State Prosecutor's	Shelters supported in infrastructural and financial terms	Istanbul Convention

⁸⁰ In accordance with the quality guidelines for shelters for victims of violence against women and domestic violence developed by the CoE, trainings will be conducted for social work centers and shelters (project outcome 3.1)

							Office		
IV.1.6	Provision of support and shelter services for special groups (boys and men victims of domestic violence, LGBTI persons, etc.)	Ongoing	120,000.00	120,000.00	120,000.00	Budget of Kosovo Government Donors	MFLT MoF Municipalities NGOs	Specialized sheltering service tailored to the needs of specific groups	Istanbul Convention
IV.1.7	Financial support of services for victims of sexual assaults provided in public institutions or specialized NGOs	2022-2026	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	Budget of Kosovo Government Donors	MFLT MoF Municipalities	Specialized service for victims of sexual assaults tailored to the needs of specific groups	Istanbul Convention
IV.1.8	Financial support of services for child victims and witnesses of violence provided in public institutions or specialized NGOs	2022-2026	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	Budget of Kosovo Government Donors	MFLT MoF Municipalities	Specialized service for child victims and witnesses of violence, adapted to the needs of the targeted age group	Istanbul Convention
IV.1.9	Appointment in courts of coordinators and profiled judges, for the treatment of cases of domestic violence in the civil and criminal aspect	2022	14,000.00	X	X	Budget of Kosovo Government	KJC	Professionals of the judiciary profiled in dealing with cases of domestic violence and violence against women	Istanbul Convention (Article 15)
IV.1.10	Establishment of a unit for handling cases of domestic violence in prosecutor's offices where a large number of cases of domestic violence are reported	2022	0	X	X	Budget of Kosovo Government	KPC	Profiling of prosecutors and professionals in dealing with cases of domestic violence and violence against women	Istanbul Convention (Article 15)
IV.1.11	Establishment of a special directorate in the	2022	132,000.00	132,000.00	132,000.00	Budget of Kosovo	MIA	Police professionals profiled in dealing	Istanbul Convention

	police at the central level and units from the regional and local level for dealing with cases of domestic violence and violence against women					Government		with cases of domestic violence and violence against women	(Article 15)
IV.1.1 2	Purchasing vehicles for police directorate at the central level and regional levels	2022	210,000.00	200,000.00	100,000.00	Budget of Kosovo Government	MIA	Purchase of 7 vehicles	Istanbul Convention (Article 15)
IV.1.1 3	Making functional the special directorate in the police at the central level and units from the regional and local level for dealing with cases of domestic violence and violence against women	2022	50,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	Budget of Kosovo Government	MIA	Functionality of the special directorate in police at the central level and regional and local level	Istanbul Convention (Article 15)
IV.1.1 4	Increase on the percentage of women police	2022-2026				Budget of Kosovo Government	MIA	Increased number of women among the police	Istanbul Convention (Article 15)
IV.1.1 5	Establishment and functioning of friendly rooms for interviewing and treating victims at the local level for the Police	2022-2026	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	Budget of Kosovo Government Donors	MIA Police	Friendly rooms for interviewing established and functional victims in Kosovo police buildings	Istanbul Convention
IV.1.1 6	Providing the necessary means for immediate and adequate transportation of victims as well as a manageable cash budget for meals for victims,	2022-2024	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	Budget of Kosovo Government Municipali	MIA Police MoH	Transportation of victims as needed to the police or CSW carried out immediately and with appropriate means	Istanbul Convention

	during their stay at the police station					ties Donors	Municipalities MFLT ACCK	Means of transport for the police Means of transport for the Centers for Social Work Manageable petty cash for meals for the victims	
IV.1.1 7	Strengthening VAMOs with adequate human, financial and infrastructural capacities	2022-2023	45,000.00	45,000.00	X	Budget of Kosovo Government	Office of the General Prosecutor	Increase of VAPO staff from 25 to 40 employees and recruited employees	
IV.1.1 8	Strengthening of the VAMOs	2022-2026	25,000.00	25,000.00	X	Kosovo budget and donors	Office of the General Prosecutor	Purchase of laptops/computers, and other office inventory	
IV.1.1 9	Purchase of vehicles	2022-2026	75,000.00	75,000.00	X	Kosovo budget and donors	Office of the General Prosecutor	Increase of rolling stock (cars) by 7	
Total budget for Specific Objective IV.1:		1,112,200.00	1,043,200.00	798,200.00					
<i>Of which capital:</i>		645,000.00	635,000.00	460,000.00					
<i>Of which current:</i>		467,200.00	408,200.00	338,200.00					
IV.2	Specific Objective: Implementing policies that enable long-term reintegration and sustainable empowerment of victims/survivors of violence								
1	Indicator: Number of victims/survivors of violence reintegrated through relevant		It will be determined	Increased by 30 %	Increased by 50 %	Kosovo Government invests with priority in the reintegration and sustainable empowerment of survivors of			

	programs, at the central and local level.		in 2022				domestic violence and violence against women, through the efficient functioning of various supporting programs in this regard		
Nr.	Action	Deadline	Budget			Source of funding	Leading and supporting institution	Output	Reference documents
			2022	2023	2024				
IV.2.1	Profiling of professionals providing services for integration and sustainable empowerment of victims	2022-2024	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	Kosovo budget and donors	Municipalities	List of profiled staff	Law on Public Official, Law on Professions, Law on SFS,
IV.2.2	Creating a database on the number of victims/survivors of violence reintegrated through relevant programs, at the central and local level		6000.00	X	X	Kosovo budget and donors	MFLT	Database created/updated	Istanbul Convention
IV.2.3	Skills identification, referral for vocational guidance, and design of new programs in accordance with the identified skills development needs and adapting current vocational training programs.	2024-2026	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	Kosovo Government and donors	MFPT, MoH, MoJ, MESTI, specialized NGOs	List of identified skills Consolidated vocational training programs	Istanbul Convention
IV.2.4	Providing employment opportunities for survivors of domestic violence and violence against women.	2022-2026	50,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	Kosovo Government and donors	Employment Offices Municipalities Other local institutions, members of the	Referred cases treated on a priority basis and employed	Istanbul Convention

							Coordination Mechanisms		
IV.2.5	Development of a three-year social housing plan in the municipalities and planning of social housing for victims of domestic violence and violence against women (rent, provision of housing).	2022-2024	120,000.00	120,000.00	120,000.00	Government of Kosovo, Municipalities	Municipalities	Consolidated social housing for victims	Istanbul Convention
IV.2.6	Establishment of a fund for grants for employment of victims of domestic violence and violence against women	2022-2024	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	Government of Kosovo, Municipalities	MoJ, MFLT	Fund created	Istanbul Convention
IV.2.7	Establishment of a fund for grants for self-employment of victims of domestic violence and violence against women	2022-2024	80,000.00	80,000.00	80,000.00	Government of Kosovo, Municipalities	MFLT Government of Kosovo	Fund created	Istanbul Convention
IV.2.8	Creating facilities for employers/businesses that employ vulnerable categories of society including victims of domestic violence and violence against women	2022-2024	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	Government of Kosovo	Government of Kosovo, MFLT, MoJ, MED	Employment of victims	Istanbul Convention
IV.2.9	Subsidizing projects for economic empowerment of victims of domestic violence and violence against women	2022-2024	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	Government of Kosovo	AGE/OPM, Municipalities, MCYS, MTI	Projects for economic empowerment of women implemented	Kosovo Program for Gender Equality 2020-2024
IV.2.1	Subsidizing kindergarten	2022-	20,000.	20,000.00	20,000.	Government	Municipalities	Facilitating the	Kosovo

1	payments to victims of domestic violence and violence against women	2024	00		0.00	nt of Kosovo		situation of women victims of domestic violence and violence against women and access to education for their children	Program for Gender Equality 2020-2024
	Total budget for Specific Objective IV.2:		337,500.00	331,500.00	331,500.00	337,500.00			
	<i>Of which capital:</i>		0	0	0	0			
	<i>Of which current:</i>		337,500.00	331,500.00	331,500.00	337,500.00			
	Total Budget for the Strategic Objective IV:		1,449,700.00	1,374,700.00	1,129,700.00	1,449,700.00			
	<i>Of which capital:</i>		645,000.00	655,000.00	460,000.00	645,000.00			
	<i>Of which current:</i>		804,700	719,700.00	669,700.00	804,700			
	Total Budget for the Action Plan:		1,857,115.00	1,665,500.00	1,409,580.00	1,857,115.00			
	<i>Of which capital:</i>		797,000.00	745,000.00	530,000.00	797,000.00			
	<i>Of which current:</i>		1,060,115.00	920,500.00	879,580.00	1,060,115.00			

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I. ANNEXES

Annex 1: Administrative data from the Kosovo Police

Domestic violence by municipality	2019	2020	2021 January-June
Decan	12	13	10
Dragash	4	10	7
Drenas	45	71	27
Ferizaj	141	152	77
Fushë Kosova	95	98	68
Graçanica	30	19	11
Gjakova	129	148	78
Gjilan	118	126	78
Hani Elezit	9	7	3
Istog	41	58	36
Junik	5	3	0
Kamenic	51	22	12
Kaqanik	24	16	14
Klina	38	24	14
Kllokot	7	4	3
Leposavic	16	18	5
Lipjan	30	60	26
Malisheva	36	44	26
Mamushe	20	3	1
South Mitrovica	46	67	38
North Mitrovica	24	41	13
Novoberde	9	8	2
Obiliq	23	18	17
Partesh	4	4	1
Peja	153	166	77
Podujeva	75	79	43

Prishtina	280	329	172
Prizren	216	201	120
Ranilluk	1	4	0
Rahovec	45	47	25
Skenderaj	27	30	17
Suhareke	46	52	33
Shtërpce	7	9	6
Shtime	23	22	10
Viti	19	45	23
Vushtrri	34	43	22
Zveqan	14	6	2
Zubin Potok	1	2	5
TOTAL	1915	2069	1122

Table 1: Domestic violence by municipality for 2019-2021. Source: Kosovo Police, 2021

Victims by gender	2019	2020	2021 January-June
Total victims	1978	2101	1137
Female victims	1593	1636	878
Male victims	385	465	259

Table 2: Disaggregation of domestic violence victims by gender for 2019-2021. Source: Kosovo Police, 2021

Victims by age	2019	2020	2021 January-June
Age 00-18 years	26	121	85
Age 18-20 years	212	195	74
Age 20-30 years	511	539	277
Age 30-40 years	543	505	311
Age 40-50 years	334	372	204
Age 50-60 years	207	189	94

Age 60-70 years	95	110	57
Age 70-80 years	45	54	30
Age over 80 years	5	16	5
Total victims	1978	2101	1137

Table 3: Disaggregation of victims by age group for 2019-2021. Source: Kosovo Police, 2021

Victims by ethnicity	2019	2020	2021 January-June
Albanian	1661	1848	965
Serb	103	99	57
Bosniak	21	10	9
Turkish	16	10	4
Montenegrin	2	0	0
Gorani	12	6	3
Roma	53	30	24
Ashkali	60	42	45
Egyptian	43	47	27
Other	7	9	3
Total victims	1978	2101	1137

Table 4: Disaggregation of victims by ethnicity for 2019-2021. Source: Kosovo Police, 2021

Domestic violence murders			
Years	2019	2020	January-August 2021
Number of burders	6	13	6
Number of victims	7	22	7

Table 5: Number of domestic violence murders for 2019-2021. Source: Kosovo Police, 2021.

Annex 2: Administrative data from the Victim Advocacy and Assistance Office

EVIDENCE BY CASE	Year 2019	Year 2020	Year 2021 January - June
Domestic violence	1353	1524	844
Trafficking	34	14	18
Rape	40	30	20
Sexual abuse under the age of 16 years	34	28	11
Sexual abuse	3	14	5
Abuse of children in pornography	3	1	-
Sexual assault	24	34	30
Degradation of sexual integrity	-	1	-
Seduction to sexual intercourse by means of a promise of marriage	-	-	1
Enabling prostitution	2	4	2
Robbery	10	8	3
Predatory theft	1	-	-
Murder	7	6	6
Aggravated murder	1	1	-
Other cases	55	56	27
Total new cases	1567	1721	967

Table 6: Evidence by case for 2019 – 2021. Source: VAMO, 2021.

Annex 3: Administrative data from shelters

The data provided by some of the shelters for purposes of drafting this Strategy show that the number of persons served by the shelters during 2019-2021 is as follows:

Shelter	2019	2020	2021
Women's Wellness Center – Peja	94 clients; 38 women aged 20 to 67 years and 56 children of both genders aged 0 to 18 years	79 clients; 45 women aged 20 to 60 years and 34 children of both genders aged 0 to 18 years	(until September 2021): 29 clients; 15 women aged 20 to 50 years and 14 children of both genders aged 0 to 16 years
Housing Center for Women and Children – Prizren	37 cases, of which 31 female and 6 male (18 women, 1 adolescent girl and 18 children).	32 cases, of which 23 female and 9 male (12 women, 5 adolescent girls and 15 children).	(until September 2021): 37 cases, of which 29 female and 8 male (11 women, 6 adolescent girls and 20 children).
My Home- Ferizaj	47 cases, of which 20 adults (women), 27 minors (children) - 9 male and 18 female	32 cases, of which 15 women and 17 minors - 7 male and 10 female	(until September 2021): 34 cases, of which 9 women and 25 children - 13 male and 12 female
Center for Protection of Women and Children "Liria" - Gjilan	67 cases: 61 female and 6 male (0-12 years); 37 children (0-14 years); 2 minor girls (14-16 years), 28 adult women (20-45 years)	66 cases: 60 female and 6 male (0-12 years); 33 children (0 - 14 years), 4 minor girls (14-16 years), 29 adult women (20- 50 years)	(until September 2021): 34 cases: 29 female and 5 male (0-12 years); 14 children (0-14 years), 1 minor girl (14-16 years), 20 adult women (20 – 50 years)

Table 7: Data from shelters for 2019-2021. Source: Shelters, 2021.

Financial support by the Ministry of Finance, Labor and Transfers to shelters⁸¹ in Kosovo for the period 2016 -2020:

Year of support	Number of shelters	Amount of support
2016	8	252,383.25 EUR
2017	9	290,000.00 EUR
2018	9	193,000.00 EUR
2019	10	324,000.00 EUR
2020	10	495,000.00 EUR

Table 8: State support provided to shelters for 2019-2021. Source: AGE, 2021

⁸¹ Shelters include those that operate within NGOs and provide shelter to victims of domestic violence, victims of trafficking in human beings as well as shelter for abused, neglected children and child victims of various forms of crime.

Annex 4: Connection of the National Strategy on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women 2022 – 2026 with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

The National Strategy on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women is related to the Sustainable Development Goals and specifically to SDG 5 “Gender Equality” - Achieving Gender Equality and Empowering All Women and Girls.

Specifically, it is directly connected with:

5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual exploitation and other forms of exploitation.

5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices such as child marriages, early marriages and forced marriages and female genital mutilation.

This Strategy is also related to SDG 11 “Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, appropriate and sustainable”, as well as SDG 16 “Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, ensuring access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”.

More specifically, some of the indicators of SDGs which can be measured to see the progress in the implementation of the National Strategy on Protection against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women 2022 - 2026 are:

- Percentage of women and girls aged 15 and over exposed to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, disaggregated by the form of violence and by age (SDG indicator 5.2.1)
- Percentage of women and girls aged 15 and over who are subjected to sexual violence by persons other than their intimate partner in the previous 12 months, disaggregated by age and place of occurrence (SDG indicator 5.2.2)
- Percentage of victims of physical or sexual harassment, by gender, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months (SDG Indicator 11.7.2)
- Percentage of young men and women aged 18-29 who experienced sexual violence by age 18 (SDG Indicator 16.2.3)
- Percentage of cases of violence reported to responsible institutions (SDG Indicator 16.3.1)