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Project: "Further Development of Civil Dialogue Between Serbia and Kosovo"

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Topic 1:

Introduce mandatory gender budgeting and plan the financing of the needs of the female population in the local community, setting goals through surveys and consultations with gender equality commissions. Allocate funds in the annual municipal budgets for the work of assembly commissions or bodies dealing with gender equality issues.

1. Opportunities – readiness of the local budget to support the real needs of the female population in the community through the implementation of gender-responsive budgeting

- According to the Budget Law, the local government has introduced gender-responsive budgeting
- Due to a temporary budget and significant local government debt, activities must be reduced
- Among the reduced activities is the implementation of gender-responsive budgeting
- Opportunities to apply for relevant calls for proposals issued by competent ministries or institutions supporting the needs of the female population are not being used

2. Value Chain

- A traditional approach to gender role distribution affects the reduced participation of women in the public sector
- Significant migration of the male workforce shifts part of the household responsibilities, especially in rural areas, to the female population
- The increased scope of responsibilities for women (both female and male roles) potentially jeopardizes their care for personal health, education, and potential public engagement
- Women's associations in this local community are the bearers of a significant number of humanitarian activities carried out in cooperation with the diaspora

3. Process Management

- A Commission for Gender Equality has been formed
- A Council for Gender Equality has been formed
- The role of the Islamic religious community is unknown

4. Challenges and Limitations

- The temporary nature of the local community's budget

- Reduction of activities that address the specific needs of the female population
- Potential discouragement, marginalization, and shutdown of women's associations due to lack of financial support

5. **Sustainability**

- The Budget Law obliges local budgets to start implementing gender-responsive budgeting in 2026
- The Budget Law also mandates budget allocations for the work of civil society organizations and NGOs
- According to their Statutes, local assemblies must establish certain assembly bodies for gender equality

6. **Social Cohesion**

- The traditional culture of this area defines patterns of socially constructed gender roles
- Migration movements of the male workforce highlight women as primary heads of households
- A potential trend is the increased economic emancipation of women and the need to strengthen public services as a real need in that process (organized childcare, elderly care)

7. **Recommendation**

Higher levels of government should show sensitivity to the financial problems of the municipality of Tutin. The temporary budget significantly reduces and endangers the implementation of planned activities. The criteria for allocating transfers from higher levels of government to local budgets should be reconsidered. The activity of MPs representing the Bosniak community in the National Assembly of Serbia should be intensified to resolve the issue of financing in the municipality of Tutin.

Topic 2:

Activate the work and visibility of the Council for Interethnic Relations as a consultative body on decisions affecting the rights and status of national minorities. Ensure a stable annual budget for their work and activities.

1. Possibilities of the local budget to allocate funds for the work of the Council for Interethnic Relations

- The local budget does not allocate specific funds for the work of the Council for Interethnic Relations
- So far, there have been no requests for allocation of funds

2. Value Chain

- In the local community, members of the Bosniak community constitute an absolute majority
- Interethnic relations with the minority Serbian community are cordial

- The minority Serbian community maintains its ethnic identity without restrictions
- Public enterprises and institutions do not take into account the national structure of the population when hiring

3. **Process Management**

- The Council for Interethnic Relations has been formed

4. **Challenges and Limitations**

- It is assessed that there is no interethnic misunderstanding
- The Council does not meet because its members believe there is no need

5. **Recommendation**

It is a fact that the majority of Councils for Interethnic Relations in municipal assemblies are inactive. The justification of their existence or their jurisdiction should be re-evaluated. In any case, special training should be organized for newly appointed Council members on their competencies and scope of work.



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Shogata Humanitare Bamiresa e Kosoves "Nena Tereza"
The Kosova Humanitarian and Charitable Society "Mother Tereza"
Humanitarno Dobrotvorno Udrusenje Kosova "Majka Tereza"

38400 Prishtine Rt. Agim Ramadani pn. Tel:00381 38 542 864, Fax: 542 869,
Web site: www.nenatereza.org e_mail: nenatereza@yahoo.com



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