

CLUSTER EVALUATION OF THREE UN TRUST FUND PROJECTS IN NORTH MACEDONIA, MONTENEGRO AND SERBIA IMPLEMENTED DURING MARCH 2017-FEBRUARY 2020

EVALUATION REPORT – AUGUST 2020



THREE PROJECTS DEDICATED TO THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (EVAW) WERE IMPLEMENTED BETWEEN 1 MARCH 2017 AND 29 FEBRUARY 2020.

Montenegro **Improving Access to Life With No Violence for Women Survivors in Central and Northern Montenegro** [SOS Hotline for Women and Children Victims of Violence Niksic](#) (SOS Niksic)

The project implemented by SOS Niksic (Montenegro) was designed to facilitate access of women and girls in three remote Northern municipalities of Montenegro to the national helpline, shelters, counselling and information and rehabilitation, with particular focus on Roma and Albanian speaking survivors who previously did not have the access to helpline due to the language barriers. It was also focused on establishment of local community interventions in four towns in Central and Northern Montenegro and development of packages to enable targeted information sharing, referral and communication with survivors and other stakeholders in the community.

North Macedonia **Empowering Survivors of Domestic Violence in the Tetovo Region** implemented by [Women's Forum Tetovo \(WFT\)](#)

The Women's Forum – Tetovo (North Macedonia) has been working to expand its free legal clinic for survivors of domestic violence to include financial skills courses, life skills trainings and group counselling. Based on gaps identified through the research, the implementing organization contributed to the improvement of work of police, social services, local self-governments and health-care providers by developing multisectoral strategy to better protect women at risk of domestic violence and to ensure a more streamlined process of victim support with better identification and referral. The aim is to equip women survivors of violence with better life and financial skills and to empower them to break cycle of violence and fully participate in the society.

Serbia **Actively and Publicly Combating Discrimination – Gender Based Violence** implemented by the [Center for Girls \(CfG\)](#)

The project implemented by Center for Girls (Serbia) was focused on young women's awareness of the risks of violence and increased capacities to identify and respond accordingly to that violence. Girls from four cities in Serbia were targeted by the project intervention, eight girls were trained to act as peer trainers. Also, 16 girls were trained to mobilize youth in high schools in selected cities around the issue of gender based violence and increase their knowledge and capacities to fight violence through innovative methods, such as performances. This was complemented by media campaign as an important tool for awareness raising.

WHY DID WE EVALUATE THESE PROJECTS?

CONTEXTS

Similar **socio-economic and cultural contexts**

Violence against women is relatively high in these contexts, and a significant portion of population still holds that it is a private matter

Specific **local contexts** in which projects were implemented e.g. rural and traditional municipalities, significance of patriarchal values and cultures.

DESIGN

All three projects have invested in **campaigns** as part of their intervention strategy, combined with their own unique constellation of accompanying project activities.



SERBIA

Primarily prevention (campaigns) only.



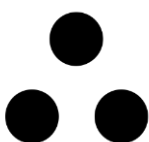
MONTENEGRO

Combining campaigns with support to survivors.



NORTH MACEDONIA

Combining campaigns with direct support to survivors & essential services coordination.



This evaluation provided an opportunity to explore the potential impact of EAW advocacy and awareness campaigns in different implementation modalities.

WHY ARE WE EVALUATING AS CLUSTER?

PURPOSE

- Provide the UN Trust Fund Secretariat with an **external & independent** final evaluation.
- Provide information on **UN Trust Fund's contribution** in the region.
- Explore the potential impact of **EVAW advocacy** and **awareness campaigns**.

OBJECTIVE

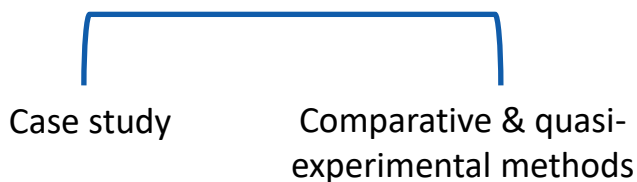
- Evaluate projects against the **effectiveness, relevance, coherence, efficiency, and sustainability**, as well as the cross-cutting **gender equality** and **human rights** criteria.
- Identify **key lessons** and promising or emerging **good practices** in the field of ending violence against women and girls.
- Explore the **impact of advocacy and awareness campaigns** on ending violence against women.
- Provide **recommendations** to replicate or scale up innovative and effective practices.

SCOPE

- Timeframe: 1 March 2017 to 29 February 2020
- Geographical coverage:
 - Montenegro**: Niksic, Plizine, Zabljak and Savnik.
 - North Macedonia**: Tetovo, Tearce, Zhelino, Brvenica, Bogovinje and Jegunovce.
 - Serbia**: Nis, Uzice and municipalities of Vlasotince and Prijepolje.

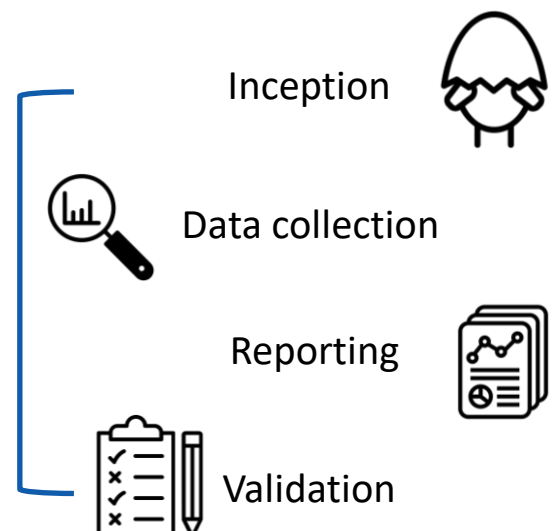
EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

'HYBRID' APPROACH



* As data collection was conducted during the peak of COVID-19 pandemic with restrictive measures implemented in all three country contexts, it was 100% remote-based for this evaluation.

FOUR PHASES



WHAT DID WE FIND?*

* *Highlighted results*

EFFECTIVENESS

- Intervention strategies were **effective** and **enabled** achievement of results.
- Awareness raising campaigns **significantly contributed** to achieving intended goals.

RELEVANCE

- **Inclusive** and **appropriate** project designs.
- **Correspond** with national and international **frameworks** and **priorities** for gender equality, elimination of discrimination and VAW/G.

COHERENCE

High compatibility of campaigns & other intervention strategies implemented in 3 projects and other regional, national and local campaigns and initiatives.

EFFICIENCY

UN Trust Fund-provided training mentioned as key contributing factor to project design improvement and staff capacity development.

SUSTAINABILITY

- Projects **meaningfully engaged** local stakeholders and enabled local **ownerships**.
- **High potential** for models, practices and interventions to be **scaled up** or **replicated**.

IMPACT

- **Individual level:** strongest impact on women targeted by multiple interventions.
- **System level:** new protection services and improved system for VAW/G response

KNOWLEDGE GENERATION

Impressive knowledge about prevention and protection practices as well as about project management and implementation generated.

GENDER EQUALITY & HUMAN RIGHTS

- Projects were designed and implemented with **highest HR standards** and **integrated GE principles**.
- 3 projects **address** important and persistent **root causes of VAW/G**.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO IMPROVE & PROMOTE THIS WORK?

EFFECTIVENESS

- Invest in baseline and endline data collection process.
- Find appropriate approach and incentives for optimal participation in campaigns.

Donors:

- More support to small grants.

EFFICIENCY

Donors:

- Simplify administrative requirements given the size of the grants and capacity of implementing partners.
- Consider increasing management budget.

KNOWLEDGE GENERATION

- Local dissemination of knowledge should be planned during project design.

Donors:

- Consider establishing knowledge sharing platform with structured cooperation.
- This know-how from the 3 projects should be replicated in the future campaigns but also disseminated among other women's CSOs.

RELEVANCE

In order to have more precise picture on how a proposed intervention aligns with national priorities, it could be useful to introduce full-fledged project proposal section on the alignment with last CEDAW recommendations to the country, and in the European context with on alignment with GREVIO if the country has ratified this convention.

SUSTAINABILITY

- National stakeholders and donors should engage since beginning of project.

Donors:

- Consider including sustainability strategy for each outcome and project goal.
- Consider supporting follow-up activities.
- Consider supporting means to mitigate COVID-19 impacts.

IMPACT

- Consider balancing the scale of outreach with depth of intervention.
- Consider organizing activities where communities can exchange experience and learn from others.

[Read full report here.](#)