



PLANNED ACTIVITIES 2021

By building on results achieved through previous interventions of the RWLSEE, supported by UN Women and Swedish Government, including project Phases I (2013), II (2017), III (2019) and IV (2020), RWLSEE has developed its activities of 2021 against the background of the peacebuilding and EU integration process and overcoming pandemic situation of COVID-19 and key areas of interest for Kosovo and of common interest for all countries in the Western Balkans (WB), while corresponding to the need to assure political, economic and social stability and the progress towards gender-equality.

This project aims to: i) continue promoting gender equality, peacebuilding and democratic governance in the context of the COVID- 19 crisis response and recovery; ii) continue the regional mediation platform in support of Brussels Dialogue through discussions between politicians and Members of Parliament (MPs) from Kosovo and Serbia in order to contribute to finalizing the Brussels Dialogue, iii) gender inclusive peace processes and transitional justice; iv) implementation of the Brussels Agreement and EU Integration processes; v) improve neighborly relations between Kosovo and Serbia and entire region including promoting interethnic dialogues; vi) promote capacity building activities for young women in leadership, mediation and COVID-19 response and recovery.

The Regional Women's Lobby for Peace, Justice and Security in Southeast Europe (RWLSEE) will support the achievement and implementation of the final Brussels Agreement between Kosovo and Serbia through dialogues between women Members of Parliament (MPs) from Kosovo and Serbia with the aim of developing joint actions - particularly in trust-building the northern part of Kosovo and in collaboration with local Serbian minority community throughout Kosovo. It will also contribute to the political empowerment of women in decision-making, democratic governance, peacebuilding and COVID-19 management, while strengthening more gender inclusive peacebuilding and state building processes in Kosovo and across the region.

Purpose and objectives of the activities against which the results will be reported

The activities being proposed in this project will support key objectives that are at the heart of the mandates of UN Women and the RWLSEE:

- Accelerating empowerment of women as key drivers of peace, stability, and democratic governance

- Promoting gender inclusive peace processes and equal participation of women at the negotiating table as a key contribution for sustainable peace to be addressed.

- Regional cooperation between women politicians, parliamentarians and local community leaders from Kosovo, Serbia and the rest of the Western Balkans solidified based on dialogue, trust building and reconciliation. They will share their good practices of cooperation in the region, especially with youth activists and with women in other post-conflict settings.

- Promoting young women involvement in politics and peacebuilding through capacitating them in leadership and mediation

- Promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in COVID-19 crisis response and recovery

- Bringing to the attention of those who oversee the Brussels Dialogue, to the parties of this dialogue and other international policy makers, the importance of addressing gender inclusive

peace processes, justice/transitional justice, economic development, security, and other social concerns.

In line with the above, by the end of the project implementation in December 2021, it is expected that the efforts of UN Women, RWLSEE and other gender equality advocates will have contributed to increasing the role of women and its capacities in politics at national and local levels and in more gender-responsive peacebuilding, COVID-19 recovery and EU integration processes in Kosovo and the Western Balkans. Additionally, it is expected to increase understanding on the role of local women in promoting peacebuilding, EU reforms and coping with pandemics at local level as an important contribution to speeding up the process of EU integration in Kosovo.

Target groups

Target groups for the proposed project are Women Members of the Parliament (MPs) and Government representatives of Kosovo and Serbia, women politicians and policy makers from Western Balkans, women local community leaders from WB region, Albanian and Serbian women leaders and local politicians, women and men from Serbian minority communities from Kosovo municipalities, civil society, international community and media.

RWLSEE jointly with UN Women have a history of supporting national partners, including women's organizations and their networks, in the Western Balkans in order to strengthen women's voices and equal participation in post-conflict processes, as well as supporting networking and interethnic dialogues between women's organizations in the Western Balkans.

The RWLSEE's planned activities expected to be implemented from 1 August 2021 to 31 December 2021, includes:

Activity 1: Capacitating young women for leadership and mediation.

The activity builds on the first stage implemented in 2020, carried out by the Regional Academy for Women Leadership and Mediation (RAWLM) of RWLSEE through series of lectures in areas of politics, peacebuilding, and democratic state building. The activity is the second stage of the Regional Academy Program, which will provide a training on leadership for young women. It will include four main pillars such as: leadership for politics, leadership for peacebuilding, leadership for democratic governance and leadership for recovery from COVID-19. It will include young women from 7 focus countries of RWLSEE. Expected result of this project are: a) promoted a higher degree of involvement of young women in politics and peacebuilding; b) introduced to them new thinking about institutional and civil society leadership and good governance at national and local levels; c) encouraged to develop initiatives in support of social cohesion and development of communities through influencing policy changes for better-off of citizens, especially in the pandemic context.

The overall aim of this capacity building activity is to capacitate and encourage young women for leadership and mediation with focus in peacebuilding, democratic governance and in COVID-19 response and recovery and, to equip them with the knowledge and tools relevant for their involvement in building peace, reconciliation, and good governance.

It has a regional scope and will include young women (aged 18-30) from diverse communities of seven focus countries in Western Balkans. The strategic objective is to help women increase their capacities in politics, peace, and security processes, to be involved in regional networking and learn from women senior leaders of the region and international experts about importance, challenges, and opportunities for engaging in politics and peacebuilding. It also aims to help closing intergenerational gap which exists because of the minimal interest of young women to engage in politics and narrow opportunity for them. Specific objective will be to capacitate young women to play a role and influence gender inclusive socio-economic recovery from COVID-19, having in mind impacts of pandemics in worsening gender and other inequalities.

Activity 1 relates to Result 1 of Strategic Framework and Result: Young women from the

Western Balkan region have increased their knowledge, capacities and involvement in politics, peacebuilding, and COVID-19 recovery, through training program on leadership in areas of politics, peace, good governance and security processes provided by the RWLSEE' Regional Academy for Women in Leadership and Mediation (RAWLM)

Activity 2. Support for Kosovo-Serbia Dialogue

Women politicians and MPs from Serbia and Kosovo will be brought together in a regional roundtable by RWLSEE, with participation of RWL's Steering Committee, UN Women, the Swedish Government, Embassy of Sweden in Kosovo, civil society, experts, and other international representatives. This activity will give them the space to reflect on the current situation regarding the EU mediated Kosovo-Serbia dialogue which has entered the final phase and strategize on how to ensure equal and meaningful participation of women in the formal negotiating tables and gender inclusive peace agreements. It will also enable women leaders from the region to share their best practices and experiences to help resolve problems at national and local level and reconciliation issues. Having in mind the crucial role of local peacebuilding, the activity will also include local women leaders to provide an opportunity of inclusive peace dialogue between regional, national, and local actors, given the importance of local needs to be included in peace agreements as well as for their full and reliable implementation. It also supports long term processes, as peacebuilding requires complex and long-term engagement, based on relationships of trust between individuals and communities generally forged at the local community level.

This activity is also important because the RWLSEE is a signatory of the WPS-HA Compact of the Paris Forum on Generational Equality and, made a policy commitment on developing the 'Strategic Guide on Gender Inclusive Provisions in Peace Agreements', which we want to start regionally and then lobby at the global level, including call on UNSC to adopt a resolution on this topic. Expected result of this activity is a designed document on gender provisions in peace agreements from the perspective and lessons learned in the Western Balkans as a post-conflict region. The document will be presented to the authorities and parties of the Brussels Dialogue and to international institutions and organizations as an input and advocacy for developing a Strategic Guide on gender provisions in peace agreements, to ensure the women's issues are not left behind in peacemaking processes, which is still missing, while very much needed as a support base for women involved in formal peace processes.

This second track peace process has been mediated successfully by the RWLSEE for about ten years, and since last year has been expanded in a dialogue between non-traditional actors, including artists who jointly addressed the role of art in peace, reconciliation, and trust building.

Activity 2 relates to Result 2 of Strategic Framework and Result: Women politicians/parliamentarians and local community leaders contributed to Kosovo-Serbia and regional dialogue for strengthening peace and stability in the region and raised awareness on importance of women's equal inclusion at the peace negotiating table and gender inclusive provisions in peace agreements for sustainable outcomes.

Activity 3: Support to inclusive peace, transitional justice, and reconciliation through art

This activity aims at promoting inclusive peace through the dialogue between women politicians and artists that will be brought together on dialogue on inclusive peace in support of transitional justice and reconciliation in the Western Balkans which is rather slow process risking of undermining current level of progress. This regionally mediated peace dialogue will address the nexus between art, peace and reconciliation with focus on helping heal and overcome the consequences of wars to women and especially related to transitional justice for women victims of war rape. It is recognized that reconciliation processes can be essentially supported by art and culture as a different light approach to peacebuilding, trust-building and reconciliation processes. The inclusive peace dialogue between women politicians and artists from the region and Italy will

have three components: a) a panel discussion of politician and artists, b) art exhibition on healing the wounds of women victims of war and c) academic exchange of artists of region of WB and Italy. The art exhibition will be result of artwork of selected artist from seven countries of WB, which will be developed within the Rocca Malatestiana Festival to then become a portable exhibition of paintings in 7 WB countries. The activity will be carried out in a cooperation between the RWLSEE, Rocca Malatestiana Festival and University of Macerata in Italy. Expected results will include set of recommendations and raising awareness on the need of mobilizing non-traditional actors in support of gender equality and gender inclusive peacebuilding as well as creating alliances of support beyond the WB in ensuring transitional justice and reconciliation; and lobbying for support through follow up events in seven countries, presenting the exhibition of paintings.

Activity 3 relates to Result 2 of Strategic Framework and Result: Women politicians/parliamentarians and local community leaders contributed in Kosovo-Serbia and regional dialogue for strengthening peace and stability in the region and raised awareness on importance of women's equal inclusion at the peace negotiating table and gender inclusive provisions in peace agreements for sustainable outcomes.

Activity 4. International Conference on formulating policies and actions on gender equality and WPS agenda in Western Balkans – *in post historic anniversaries of the UNSCR 1325 and Beijing Platform and in the context of Generation Equality Forums in Paris and Mexico and pandemics COVID-19*

The International conference on formulating policies and actions on gender equality and WPS agenda in post -conflict setting of Western Balkans will address the traditional and new challenges and ways of speeding up the gender equality and peacebuilding, against the backdrop of post historic anniversaries of 1325 and Beijing Platform, Generation Equality Forums in Mexico and Paris this year and, recovery from pandemics. The international conference will focus on equal participation of women in politics, decision making and leadership, with emphasizes that never was more urgent to ensure equality in decision making for sustainable peace and development and to make real this goal by 2030. The Conference aim will be: a) to examine conditions that facilitate women's participation and representation in decision-making processes within the context of current socio-economic and political transformations; b) consider the triple nexus between women's under-representation in political leadership and decision making, weak systems of democratic governance and autocracy/corruption, generating persisting barriers to women's entry into politics of decision-making in the past decades; c) examine the linkages between women's presence in decision-making bodies at all levels and their impact on gender-inclusive policy formulation, mainstreaming and conducting of political institutions, particularly in post-conflict context and peacebuilding. While recognizing today's achievements, the conference will look for new ideas and strategies that will shorten the road to gender equality, peace, stability, reconciliation, and European integration for WB countries. Main concerns relate to unsustainability and fragility which were once again displayed in a way as how this pandemic worsened gender inequality and weakened the process of women's empowerment. Expected result of this conference is a report, common statement and set of actionable recommendations on women's equal participation in leadership and decision making, in political parties and government, ensuring full and meaningful gender equality in all other spheres of life, politics, justice, economy, security, social affairs and issues of transitional justice which remain largely unaddressed. Recommendations will also respond to current fragile situation in the region and recommend way-out of empowerment of women and sustainable peace in the region. Recommendations will also focus to gender responsive socio-economic recovery plan of COVID-19.

UN Women and RWLSEEE will bring together the broader list of participants, as women leaders in politics and civil society, parliaments, governments, local governments, national and international experts on gender equality,

international representatives including Swedish MFA, Embassy of Sweden in Kosovo, UN Women and other UN agencies, RWLSEE Steering and all its members.

Activity 4 relates to Result 3 of Strategic Framework and Result: Women have further empowered in decision- making, peacebuilding and COVID-19 response and recovery and, promoted gender equality through regional cooperation, advanced a gender inclusive democratic governance and peace building agenda in the seven countries in Western Balkans at national and local level, through dialogue platforms and international and regional conferences provided by RWLSEE.

Support to the sustainability of the RWLSEE.

The running of the RWLSEE will be supported by 2 staff, RWLSEE Coordinator and a Project/Finance Assistant dedicated to the development of a RWLSEE secretariat (including communications, social media messaging, event planning, travel, administration, etc). Office rental costs will also be included under this line.

During this project, RWLSEE's institutional structure and coverage will be strengthened to guarantee the implementation of activities foreseen as well as per its 4-year Strategic Plan 2019-2022.

Activity 5: Semi-annual Steering Committee Meetings of RWL SEE is to be held, to plan and monitor the implementation of activities and RWL SEE Strategic Plan.

One day after the Regional Conference on Dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia, the semi-annual meeting of Steering Committee members will be held to discuss RWLSEE impacts, accomplishments and challenges ahead. Depending on the COVID-19 occurrences and risks, informal virtual meetings will be considered to minimize the risk and take immediate actions to continue with project implementation.

Activity 6: Organize Annual Member Meeting of RWL SEE

The RWLSEE Annual Member meeting with its all 36 members will take place after the International Conference (so to save on funds), on day two, to discuss and agree about further steps, strategic plans and actions for the coming year, RWLSEE accomplishments, challenges and ways forward to achieving planned goals as per the 4-year Strategic plan.

For detailed description see Annex II - Logical Framework for planned activities and results (outputs)

The RWLSEE as a strategic partner of UN Women, is the main implementing partner and beneficiary of this project. The project is designed by the RWLSEE and is based on its vision, mission, and its Strategic Plan 2019-2022. The RWLSEE Chair Dr. Edita Tahiri and RWLSEE Steering Committee members will be responsible and overseeing project implementation.

UN Women's contribution is based on its long-standing field presence in the Western Balkans, with offices in Kosovo, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania, and North Macedonia. Through this presence it can maintain close ties to women leaders involved in this project throughout the region. In Kosovo, UN Women has through its programming and normative work, developed

strong networks of trust with women leaders and local authorities at the central and municipal level that help ensure seamless implementation of this still political and ground-breaking initiative. UN Women can use its convening power to bring together diverse national partners and increase the visibility of gender equality and women's empowerment issues among public institutions.

With the support of the UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia located in Istanbul and under direct and overall supervision of the UN Women Head of Office in Kosovo, the Project Management Team, composed of a Project Coordinator funded through the project, will be responsible for the activity implementation and day-to-day project management. The activities will be carried out in line with UN Women programmatic, financial, and administrative procedures.

RWLSEE's contribution to the current project consists of the efforts of a dedicated 36 members strong women's leadership body of high governmental and non-governmental members, capable of introducing and contributing to the implementation of the Agreement and the women, peace and security agenda in Kosovo (under SCR 1244), Serbia and the region as a whole. These women will provide their expertise and play a key role in the political guidance throughout the project implementation.

UN Women Head of office in close collaboration with the RWLSEE Project Coordinator will be responsible for the monitoring of the project and its results. One monitoring will be undertaken in line with the log frame indicators. Progress against the set targets will be reported on in periodic narrative reports. The narrative reports will include risk analysis and mitigation strategies, as well as alert on any issues which may rise during project implementation.

UN Women's' convening power bring added value to the planned intervention by bringing together diverse national partners and increase visibility of the need for gender equality and women's empowerment issues among public institutions. Through its vision for this project, UN Women jointly with RWLSEE will deepen its work in analyzing.

The RWLSEE' successes come from its committed work and together with its strategic partner's UN Women and Swedish Government, as well as, from lessons from programs and advocacy efforts. Both, UN Women and RWLSEE continuously seek to maximize impact achieved through programs and advocacy efforts; dissemination of communication materials (brochures, declarations, web articles analyses and related resources and other products that progress global knowledge on gender equality) and sharing of other key resources on gender equality, women empowerment and women's rights.

All the documents and materials on successes and advocacy efforts achieved will be disseminated through the institutions of 7 WB focus countries of RWLSEE and international organizations, posted on RWLSEE and UN Women ECA website.

Reporting to the donor will be in line with the standard Cost Sharing Agreement between MFA Sweden and UN Women.

In addition, UN Women contribution to the current project consist of (i) day to day organization, coordination, and admin - management support; (ii) Overall UN Women professional expertise, management, and staff (iii) administrative support throughout the duration of the project, including office facility and space.

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