



# FGE Monitors and Advocates for the Implementation of National Agreements on Gender Equality and Gender-Based Violence in the Health Sector in the Municipality of Elbasan



## Woman's Forum Elbasan FGE



### Location

Municipality of Elbasan



### Implementing Period

August 2025 - July 2026



### Total Budget

11,500 EUR



Funded by  
the European Union



Gender Alliance for Development Center  
Qendra Aleanca Gjinore për Zhvillim





## PROJECT OVERVIEW

The overall objective of the project is to empower women's CSOs and women's groups in the territory of Elbasan Municipality to monitor and hold accountable the responsible institutions for the implementation of the legal framework on gender equality (GE) and gender-based violence (GBV). The specific objectives are to strengthen the capacities of women's CSOs to hold institutions accountable for the implementation of the legal framework on GE and GBV by empowering women/victims to realize their rights; to increase the capacities of public health and social protection institutions in Elbasan Municipality to provide quality services for women/victims, including those from marginalized groups; and to raise awareness among women/victims in Elbasan Municipality, particularly survivors of violence and individuals facing discrimination, regarding access to coordinated and quality health and social services.



## THE CHALLENGE

Lack of information and training among healthcare staff was highlighted, with personnel valuing the training provided but emphasizing the need for more such sessions, as they often lack sufficient knowledge of specific legal obligations and clear procedures on what actions to take in cases of violence. A lack of confidential spaces was also identified, as among the four monitored urban health centers only Health Center No. 3 has dedicated rooms for psychologists and social workers, while the absence of such facilities in the other centers undermines confidentiality and reduces victims' trust in reporting. Social, economic, and cultural barriers, including fear and mentality, further hinder reporting, as women often hesitate to disclose violence or deny it even when visible signs exist, due to fear that information will spread in their community, as well as economic dependency and lack of housing, which often force them to return to the abuser. Healthcare staff also reported feeling unsafe and unprotected when reporting or documenting cases, expressing fear of potential threats from perpetrators or their family members. In addition, issues related to women's isolation at home and migration were raised, as housewives often silently endure violence due to lack of information, while women in migration face continuous abuse and frequently return without assets or recognition of their work and rights accumulated over the years.



## OUR RESPONSE

In response, Women Forum Elbasan executed a dual-strategy framework encompassing institutional capacity-building and intensive community outreach. FGE developed and delivered rigorous legal and psychosocial training modules tailored for healthcare professionals across 10 distinct municipal clinics, while simultaneously deploying mobile legal clinics to conduct 8 comprehensive rights-awareness sessions inside rural and urban administrative units.

This coordinated approach paired grassroots empowerment with robust advocacy targeting the Ministry of Health to institutionalize localized protocols, secure confidential victim spaces, and enforce state-guaranteed primary legal assistance.



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



### DIRECT REACH

- **103 beneficiaries** reached in the direct meetings and about 2000 people through our social media.
- **103 women/girls** attended the meetings.



### CAPACITY BUILDING

- **10 trainings/informing** conducted.
- **144 participants** trained/informed.
- **80% reported** improved knowledge and skills.



### IMPACT STORIES








*"These workshop sessions are of immense value. Many women in our village suffer in complete silence because we lack simple information on where to go or who protects us. Learning that FGE provides lawyers and primary legal aid completely free of charge changed everything for us—it broke our isolation."*

**Community Outreach Participant, Elbasan Municipality**



### RESULTS AT A GLANCE

INDICATOR	ACHIEVEMENT
 Beneficiaries reached	247
 Trainings conducted	10
 Reports produced	10
 Advocacy initiatives	on going
 Partnerships established	10 state institutions



### LESSONS LEARNED

- ✓ **Lesson 1:** Multi-disciplinary institutional training is essential to overcome passivity; when doctors and nurses clearly understand the judicial value of a standard medical report, their active engagement in reporting and documenting domestic violence cases increases significantly.
- ✓ **Lesson 2:** Community sub-sessions must bridge legal aid with psychosocial elements. Addressing the severe lack of confidential treatment spaces inside health centers directly impacts and builds victims' institutional trust to safely report abuse.



### CONTACT



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