

# Tirana for Women: Equality, Protection, and Empowerment



**Location**  
Tirana



**Implementing Period**  
August 2025 - July 2026



**Total Budget**  
11,500 EUR



## PROJECT OVERVIEW

The project “Tirana for Women: Equality, Protection, and Empowerment” aims to improve the institutional response to gender-based violence by strengthening the role of healthcare institutions and promoting the active involvement of marginalized communities in monitoring and raising awareness. It addresses a key local challenge related to the unequal access of women and girls—particularly those from marginalized groups—to safe, dignified, and gender-sensitive healthcare services.

In the Municipality of Tirana, primary healthcare centers often serve as the first point of contact for survivors of violence; however, the lack of specialized training, practical guidelines, and coordination with referral mechanisms leads to cases being missed or inadequately handled. At the same time, these communities face multiple barriers, including limited awareness of their rights, institutional discrimination, and fear of seeking help, which collectively contribute to an ineffective and non-inclusive institutional response.



## THE CHALLENGE

The project addressed the limited capacity of local institutions, particularly healthcare services, to effectively identify, respond to, and manage cases of gender-based violence (GBV), as well as the insufficient coordination and responsiveness of support mechanisms for survivors. In parallel, affected and marginalized communities faced barriers in accessing services, limited awareness of available protection mechanisms, and weak opportunities to monitor or influence service quality.



## OUR RESPONSE

The project “Tirana for Women: Equality, Protection, and Empowerment” applies an integrated approach aimed at strengthening the capacity of healthcare institutions to identify, manage, and refer cases of gender-based violence. At the same time, it enhances awareness and empowers marginalized communities to access services, understand their rights, and participate in monitoring service quality. This dual approach seeks to improve institutional response while reducing inequalities in access to safe and gender-sensitive healthcare services.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



### Direct Reach



**255** Direct beneficiaries reached



**200** Women/girls supported



**133** Youth/community members engaged



**12** Institutions involved (5 schools, 3 AU, 3 healthcare centers, 1 community center)



### Capacity Building



**6** Trainings were conducted (6 two-day workshops)



**122** Participants trained



**90%** Reported improved knowledge and skills



### Research & Evidence



**2** Monitoring reports produced in the A.U. Peza and Ndroq



**4** Policy recommendations developed



**16** Monitoring missions conducted, including mentoring sessions.



### Advocacy & Policy Impact



**5** Advocacy awareness meetings organized



Ongoing - Institutional engagement



Under discussion - Recommendations for policy uptake



### IMPACT STORIES

B.M., 63-year-old woman, Peza Administrative Unit







“

*“This is the first time I have participated in a meeting with other women, and the first time I have seen how openly women speak about violence. It is very good that you invited us to this meeting. Violence should not remain within the walls of the home.”*

”



### RESULTS AT A GLANCE

INDICATOR	ACHIEVEMENT
 Direct beneficiaries reached	<b>255</b>
 Trainings organized	<b>6</b>
 Monitoring reports	<b>2</b>
 Advocacy meetings	<b>5</b>
 Institutions involved	<b>12</b>
 Partnership established	<b>13</b>



## LESSONS LEARNED



### LESSON 1

- ✓ The project demonstrated that a dual approach, combining institutional capacity building with the empowerment of women and girls in the community, is essential for achieving meaningful and sustainable impact. Technical training alone is not sufficient without also addressing social norms, attitudes toward violence, and barriers to reporting and service access.
- ✓ Local partnerships increased the credibility and acceptance of the intervention, while monitoring showed that success should be measured by improved access to services, better reporting, and stronger case management, rather than by the number of activities conducted.
- ✓ A significant lesson was the clear capacity gap: many healthcare staff reported that structured training is rare and that this was their first training on the topic. Similarly, women and girls emphasized the limited availability of safe, structured spaces for information and empowerment. This underscores the need for continuous professional development and sustained community-based awareness efforts.



### LESSON 2

- ✓ Based on the monitoring reports conducted in the Ndroq and Pezë Administrative Units, healthcare services are generally functional and available; however, effective access for women and girls is still constrained by practical barriers such as lack of transportation, distance, and service hours that are not always convenient.
- ✓ The reports also highlight insufficient awareness of gender-based violence (GBV) services and referral mechanisms, which affects both service uptake and willingness to seek support. In addition, perceptions of safety, privacy, and the quality of interaction with healthcare staff vary, indicating the need for more consistent, sensitive, and standardized communication practices.
- ✓ Overall, the monitoring findings emphasize the need to strengthen community awareness and information, enhance the professional capacity of healthcare staff, and improve practical access to services in order to ensure a more inclusive and effective response to the needs of women and girls.



## KEY TAKEAWAYS



Healthcare staff **need continuous training.**



Community **awareness remains a priority.**



Practical access **barriers** still affect service uptake



### CONTACT



Initiative ARSIS



[www.nisma-arsis.org](http://www.nisma-arsis.org)



[info@nisma-arsis.org](mailto:info@nisma-arsis.org)



+355698233113