



# Health that Protects



## National Center for Community Services (NCCS)



### Location

Municipality of Fier



### 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



## THE CHALLENGE



Women and girls affected by gender-based violence (GBV), particularly those from vulnerable communities, often face barriers in accessing protection, healthcare services, and referral mechanisms. Despite the existence of legal and institutional frameworks, healthcare professionals frequently lack sufficient knowledge and practical skills to identify, document, and refer GBV cases effectively. Strengthening the healthcare system's response is essential to ensure timely support, protection, and access to justice for survivors.

## OUR RESPONSE



The project strengthened the response of the primary healthcare system to gender-based violence in Fier Municipality through accredited training and certification of healthcare professionals. It also aimed to improve institutional coordination and raise awareness among communities and future healthcare professionals regarding referral mechanisms and available support services. In addition, the project organized community workshops to inform local residents about available protection services and legal referral mechanisms within the healthcare system. It also conducted awareness sessions with medical students at the University of Medicine to strengthen early knowledge on identifying and responding to gender-based violence cases.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

### Direct Reach



112

healthcare professionals reached and trained



112

doctors and nurses supported through accredited capacity-building activities



Primary healthcare centres across Fier Municipality involved



Community awareness activities and engagement of medical students planned for the next implementation phase.

### Capacity Building



**6 accredited training sessions** were organised with primary healthcare staff, focusing on the identification, management, documentation, and referral of gender-based violence cases within primary healthcare services.



**112 healthcare professionals (doctors and nurses)** were trained and certified, strengthening their practical understanding of legal obligations, referral procedures, and the healthcare response to domestic and gender-based violence.



**The trainings created a platform** for institutional dialogue and experience-sharing among healthcare professionals, contributing to improved coordination between primary healthcare centres and local referral mechanisms.



**4 community workshops** were conducted, reaching approximately 78 participants, mainly from vulnerable groups, with practical information on protection services, legal rights, and referral pathways within the healthcare system.



**3 information sessions** were delivered to medical students at the Faculty of Medicine, increasing awareness of GBV identification, early response, and referral mechanisms among future healthcare professionals.



**The combined activities strengthened awareness** among community members and future professionals regarding access to protection measures, institutional responsibilities, and coordinated response mechanisms for survivors of violence.



## RESEARCH & EVIDENCE

- ✓ **1 accredited training module** developed and approved.
- ✓ Key implementation barriers were identified through training discussions and participant feedback, including limited awareness of screening tools, reporting requirements, and referral procedures.
- ✓ Community workshops highlighted gaps in public awareness regarding available protection services and legal referral mechanisms within the healthcare system.
- ✓ Information sessions with medical students revealed the need to strengthen early professional knowledge on the identification and response to gender-based violence cases, as well as the importance of integrating these topics into academic training.



## ADVOCACY & POLICY IMPACT

- ✓ Continuous coordination maintained with healthcare institutions and accreditation authorities.
- ✓ Increased awareness among healthcare professionals regarding national protocols, legal obligations, and institutional referral mechanisms.
- ✓ Recommendations generated for strengthening coordination between healthcare centres, social services, and local referral structures.












## IMPACT STORIES



*“Before participating in the training, I was not aware of the annual screening obligation for women and girls over the age of 14, nor of the specific documentation required for cases of gender-based violence. The training gave me practical tools and confidence to identify, document, and refer cases appropriately. I now feel better prepared to support survivors and fulfil my professional responsibilities.”* – **Healthcare professional, Fier Municipality**



## RESULTS AT A GLANCE

INDICATOR	ACHIEVEMENT
 Beneficiaries reached	<b>112</b>
 Trainings conducted	<b>6 Accredited trainings</b>
 Workshops conducted	<b>4</b>
 Participants in workshops	<b>78</b>
 Reports produced	<b>1</b>
 Universities engaged	<b>3</b>
 Advocacy initiatives	<b>1</b> Accreditation process and institutional coordination to strengthen the response to gender-based violence (GBV).
 Institutions engaged	<b>7</b> primary healthcare centres in Fier Municipality, accreditation bodies, and local health institutions.
 Partnerships established	Cooperation between NCCS, local health institutions, and the Accreditation Authority (ASCK).



## LESSONS LEARNED

- ✓ Healthcare professionals need continuous and practical training on the identification, documentation, and referral of gender-based violence cases, as many of them were not sufficiently familiar with legal obligations and standard reporting procedures.
- ✓ Strengthening inter-institutional coordination between healthcare centres, social services, and local referral structures is essential to ensure a more effective response and better support for survivors of violence.



## CONTACT



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