



Strengthening the Response to Gender-Based Violence in the Primary Health Care System in Albania!



Albanian Legal and Territorial
Research Institute



Location
Tirana, Elbasan



Implementing Period
August 2025 - July 2026



Total Budget
11,500 EUR



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Gender Alliance for Development Center
Qendra Aleanca Gjinore për Zhvillim





THE CHALLENGE

Gender-based violence remains a serious human rights and social development challenge in Albania, with women and girls facing barriers to reporting and accessing support due to stigma, limited information and insufficient institutional response. Primary health care centres are often close to the community and can serve as an early entry point for identifying, supporting and referring survivors; however, existing referral protocols are not applied consistently because of limited training and practical knowledge among health professionals.



OUR RESPONSE

The project aims to improve the treatment and referral of gender-based violence cases within the primary health care system by strengthening the capacities of health professionals and promoting a coordinated institutional response. To date, ALTRI has conducted 10 awareness-raising and information meetings in primary health care centers in the Municipality of Tirana, reaching 181 participants, including 151 doctors, nurses and psychologists, with the participation of representatives from the Health Care Services Operator. The next phase will include two Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions for medical personnel and other relevant actors in Tirana and Elbasan, focused on strengthening practical capacities for safe, effective and survivor-sensitive services.

★ KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



Direct Reach



181 Beneficiaries reached



163 women/girls participants reached, representing around **90%** of total participants.



151 doctors, nurses, and psychologists from primary health care centers participated in the meetings.



11 institutions involved, including 9 primary health care centers, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, and the Central Health Care Services Operator.



Capacity Building



9 awareness-raising and information meetings conducted with primary health care staff.



1 community awareness-raising and information meeting conducted with woman/girls.



Health care professionals were informed on GBV referral procedures, institutional roles and responsibilities, and practical challenges in case identification and referral.



Improved knowledge and skills will be further measured following the upcoming Training of Trainers sessions.



2 Training of Trainers (ToT) planned for medical personnel and other relevant actors in Tirana and Elbasan



RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE

- Practical barriers and needs related to GBV case identification and referral were identified through discussions with health care staff.
- Inputs collected from the meetings will inform the upcoming ToT sessions and the development of practical recommendations.



ADVOCACY & POLICY IMPACT



10 advocacy meetings organized



11 institutions engaged








IMPACT STORIES

“Empower and educate women and girls so they can achieve economic freedom. Support them so they do not become victims of violence, and so they feel able to report it.”



RESULTS AT A GLANCE

Indicator	Achievement
 Beneficiaries reached	181
 Trainings conducted	2 upcoming
 Reports produced	planned
 Advocacy initiatives	10 institutional meetings
 Institutions engaged	11



LESSONS LEARNED



Awareness-raising remains essential, as many primary health care professionals need further practical guidance on the GBV referral protocol, including the use of screening forms and clear referral steps.



Fear of retaliation and the lack of clear safety procedures for medical staff remain key barriers to referral, leading health professionals to report cases mainly when violence is highly visible or severe.



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