



# HEAL – Health, Empowerment, Advocacy, for Living Free of Violence



## Community Development Center “Today for the Future” (CDC-TFF)



### Location

Lezha Municipality



### 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

Despite the existence of legal and institutional mechanisms for addressing domestic and gender-based violence (DGBV), the health sector in Lezhë has historically played a limited role in identifying and referring cases. Healthcare professionals often face challenges related to screening, documentation and referral procedures, while women and girls—particularly those living in rural and administrative units—have limited information about their rights, available services and protection mechanisms.

The intervention was designed to strengthen both the supply side (institutional response and professional capacities) and the demand side (awareness and empowerment of women and girls), contributing to a more coordinated and effective response to DGBV.



## OUR RESPONSE

The HEAL project works to improve the prevention, identification, management and referral of domestic and gender-based violence cases through strengthening the capacities of healthcare and social service professionals, increasing awareness among women and girls, and fostering cooperation between local institutions and community actors.

The project combines professional training, community outreach, mentoring and awareness campaigns to create a more responsive and survivor-centered local support system.



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



### Direct Reach



**64**  
women/girls supported



**4**  
institutions involved



### Capacity Building



**14**  
trainings conducted



**77**  
participants trained



**78%**  
reported improved knowledge and skills



### Advocacy & Policy Impact



**4**  
advocacy meetings organized



**14**  
institutions engaged



**1**  
recommendations adopted or reflected in policies/plans



## IMPACT STORIES

“Before participating in the workshop, I knew very little about the services available for women experiencing violence. I learned where to seek help, what my rights are and that reporting violence is not something to be ashamed of. The information gave me confidence to support myself and other women in my community.”



Participant, Workshop with Women, Balldren Administrative Unit, Lezhë

“The training helped me look beyond the visible symptoms that patients present with. In the past, I would focus mainly on the medical issue, but now I pay greater attention to behavioural and psychosocial indicators that may signal violence. The practical exercises and case discussions increased my confidence in asking sensitive questions, documenting concerns appropriately and understanding when and how to initiate a referral. I now feel better equipped to contribute to the protection and support of women experiencing violence.”

Participant, Training with Healthcare Professionals, Shnkoll Administrative Unit, Lezhë



## RESULTS AT A GLANCE

Indicator	Achievement
 Beneficiaries reached	<b>141</b>
 Trainings conducted	<b>14</b>
 Institutions engaged	<b>14</b>



## LESSONS LEARNED

✓ The project's approach of combining structured training, practical exercises, mentoring and interdisciplinary exchange has proven effective in strengthening the capacities of healthcare professionals. The experience confirms that sustained engagement through training cycles and follow-up support contributes more effectively to improving professional confidence and practice than standalone training events.

✓ Women and girls living in administrative and rural areas continue to face significant barriers in accessing information, support services and protection mechanisms. This highlights the importance of community-based outreach, accessible awareness activities and strong coordination between health, social protection and local government institutions to ensure that support reaches those most at risk.



## CONTACT



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