

BASELINE REPORT
for the UN Women programme
“Implementing Norms, Changing Minds”

COUNTRY REPORT: FORMER YUGOSLAV
REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
2018

**BASELINE REPORT FOR THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA,
2018**

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1. INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

This report is prepared in the frame of the baseline exercise for the EU-UN Women Regional Programme on Ending Violence Against Women in The Western Balkans and Turkey “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds”. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is one of the six countries in which this baseline exercise is conducted. The main aim of the baseline is to inform the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on current and dominant public attitudes, perceptions, opinions and beliefs toward gender equality and violence against women.

Data for this baseline report were collected through a mixed methods approach. Qualitative data were gathered through in-depth interviews with key governmental and nongovernmental stakeholders. Quantitative information was collected through personal interviews of a total of **600 respondents**, including 307 women and girls and 293 men and boys of ages 15-64, located in thirty-seven municipalities. The names of participating municipalities, as well as the percentage of rural/urban respondents from each, can be found in the Appendix (p. 31). The survey sample is representative of the population in which the survey was conducted, with an error margin of $\pm 3.5\%$ and a confidence level of 95%.

This report is organized into the following chapters: country context, tools and methodology, demographic data, quantitative data; qualitative findings, success stories, conclusion and recommendations and appendixes.

2. COUNTRY CONTEXT

In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the legal framework on the rights and protection of women against gender-based violence (including domestic violence) is comprised of the ratified international documents, the Constitution, the laws, and law acts. Macedonia ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Optional Protocol in 1994. The country signed the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, known as the Istanbul convention on 8th July 2011 and has ratified it with deposit of instrument of ratification on the 23 March 2018. Macedonia has adopted several laws and mechanisms to advance gender equality. The Constitution of the country guarantees the principle of equality and non-discrimination at all bases (including sex), the respect for basic freedoms and human rights, and the right to equal access to the courts. The Law on Equal Opportunities of Women and Men¹ obliges public institutions to ensure equal rights and opportunities for women and men and to integrate gender into their policies, strategies and budgets through specific measures to reduce gender inequality.

Regarding legal protection from domestic violence, the legal framework foresees the protection of victims through criminal and civil court proceedings. Criminal prosecution of offenders is undertaken in accordance with the Criminal Code and the Law on Criminal Proceedings. The definition in the Criminal Code defines the forms of domestic violence, its acts, the consequences, characteristics of the perpetrator and the object of protection. However, it does not define domestic violence as a gender-based violence and therefore does not identify it as a specific form of discrimination against women. The definition of domestic violence is gender neutral, and does not list certain types of abuse, such as economic violence, controlling behavior, and economic and labor exploitation. Consequently, punitive laws in the country marginalize the position of women by not respecting the specific challenges faced by their gender, thereby distancing themselves from gender issues. The situation is identical in the Law on Family, which lacks a clear recognition of domestic violence as a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women and girls. In addition, the provisions that demand the full equality of the two sexes do not correspond with the reality in the country. The Macedonian legal approach towards gender issues is visibly ostensible, in the sense that it combines high quality legislation with superficial implementation and low legal awareness, and in certain issues there are not even adequate legal mechanisms and social-economic instruments for achieving gender equality².

The legal framework for the protection of victims in civil proceedings is provided by the Law for the Prevention of and Protection from Domestic Violence of 2014. Two addendums were added to this Law in 2015 to complete the provisions regarding the responsibilities of the social work centers and punitive sanctions, and five acts were enacted by the responsible institutions to define the manner of implementation and monitoring of the protection measures against domestic violence, the risk assessment, and the bodily integrity of the victims, as well as the risk of recidivism.

¹ Adopted in 2006 and amended in 2012.

² Мирчева, Гогов, 2014: 15

The institutional framework for the protection of victims and prevention of domestic violence encompasses the Center for Social Work, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, health institutions, courts, public prosecutors, Ombudsman and educational institutions and the civil associations that are working in the area of social protection. The common protocol for collaboration between the institutions in charge and the associations on the prevention of and protection from domestic violence define the mechanisms for their actions, as well as the conditions for their work aimed at improving the protection and assistance to victims of domestic violence³.

Despite significant legal improvements, gender gaps and inequalities continue across all levels. Women make up only 39.5 per cent of the labor force, earn 17.9 per cent less than men per hour of work⁴, and make up 64.2 per cent of the country's economically inactive population⁵.

Women's participation in decision making remains limited. Any progress, such as increased representation of women in the National Parliament and municipal councils, is due to electoral quotas. In 2015, the electoral quota was increased to 40%. While the introduction of the quota led to improvement of women's representation in Parliament and Local Councils, the share of women in the Executive is still very low, as there are only 4 women ministers out of 25, and 6 women mayors out of 81. Women in the country are disproportionately affected by domestic and gender-based violence; 82 per cent of domestic violence survivors are women, and men receive 93 per cent of domestic violence convictions⁶. The inefficient protection of women victims of domestic violence sometimes results in recidivism with fatal outcomes. In the period between 2001 and 2016, 32 cases of femicide were registered, 15 of which took place between 2013 and 2016⁷. There is a strong need for more research and data on gender-based violence.

The lack of recognition of all forms of gender-based violence, the trivial number of criminal sentences against persons who perform acts of domestic violence, the insufficient support offered to victims (including victim shelters, legal assistance, and counseling), and the lack of systematic data collection on domestic violence cases at the national level are a mere few of the many issues clearly leading to the inevitable conclusion that the protection of women victims of domestic violence is inadequate.

³ "Legal and Institutional Functionality in the Protection of Women – Victims of Domestic Violence in the Republic of Macedonia – Present Situation and Future Perspectives", Zorica Saltirovska, Sunchica Dimitrijoska, August 2017

⁴ "Gender pay gap in Western Balkan Countries: evidence from Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia", FREN, Belgrade 2013. <http://www.fren.org.rs/sites/default/files/Gender%20pay%20gap%20in%20the%20Western%20balkan%20countries.pdf>

⁵ Labour Force Survey, State Statistical Office of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Skopje, 2014

⁶ Mirceva S., Caceva V., Kenig H., Voice for Justice, Assessment of the court procedures for domestic violence cases with special focus on the managing the cases from gender perspective, Institute for Sociological, Political and Legal Research - ISSPI, Skopje, 2014.

⁷ "Legal and Institutional Functionality in the Protection of Women – Victims of Domestic Violence in the Republic of Macedonia – Present Situation and Future Perspectives", Zorica Saltirovska, Sunchica Dimitrijoska, August 2017

3. TOOLS AND METHODOLOGY

The baseline exercise in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was conducted based on the methodology and tools approved by UN Women's Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (developed by the international consultant).

The implementing partner selected by UN Women Country Office in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to conduct the fieldwork for this baseline exercise was Centre for Research and Policy Making (CRPM)⁸. CRPM was responsible for the collection of quantitative and qualitative data and information, including the selection of the success stories for the country.

Quantitative information was collected through personal interviews (face to face) by using a questionnaire survey, which was firstly translated into Macedonian and other official languages and then validated. The questionnaire survey contains 19 questions. Of those 19 questions, 8 are demographic questions. Of the remaining 11 questions, 5 are formulated to gather information on respondents' knowledge and understanding of the legal framework on gender equality and violence against women and girls in the country; 5 questions are focused specifically on programme baseline indicators; the final question gathers information and opinion on the potential change of behaviour and attitudes in the future regarding gender equality and violence against women and girls.

The survey sample size selected by CRPM is representative of the population aged 15-64 in the areas in which the survey was conducted, with a margin of error of $\pm 3.5\%$ and a confidence level of 95%. CRPM conducted **600 (six hundred) surveys** among women/girls and men/boys in **thirty-seven municipalities/cities**, both in **urban areas** (368 questionnaires, or 61.3%) and **rural areas** (232 questionnaires, or 38.7%). The names of participating municipalities, as well as the percentage of rural/urban respondents from each, can be found in the Appendix (p. 31).

Respondents were selected using simple random sampling. The database of potential participants was weighted by gender and age in order to be more representative. In addition to questions on respondents' attitudes toward violence against women and gender equality, the questionnaire collected demographic information on respondents, such as ethnicity, religion, education, special needs/type of disabilities, employment status and marital or civil status (as presented in Chapter 4).

Qualitative information was collected mainly through **14 (fourteen) in-depth interviews** with key public and private stakeholders, including three government institutions and eleven specialized non-governmental organizations (NGOs)⁹. In addition, desk research was conducted to add context to the findings, and the results of that research are provided throughout the report. Further qualitative information is presented in the form of **two stories** of effective initiatives and awareness-raising campaigns in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

⁸Detailed information about CRPM can be found at: <http://www.crpm.org.mk/>

⁹ A detailed list of interviewed institutions/organizations is attached to this report as appendix 2.

4. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Key demographic characteristics include *gender, age, education, marital status, religious affiliation, ethnicity, employment status* and classification according to different *disabilities*. Participants in the survey are selected from urban and rural areas of thirty-four municipalities/cities of the country. From the total of **600 respondents**, 61.3% ($n=368$) are from urban areas and 38.7% ($n=232$) of the total respondents are from rural areas¹⁰. For the following results, when data is presented they include the *composite samples of both rural and urban*.

Gender

	<i>n</i>	%
Female	307	51.2
Male	293	48.8

Table 1

Age

	<i>n</i>	%
Adolescent (15-19)	49	8.2
Young adult (20-29)	161	26.8
Adult (30-49)	233	38.8
Senior (50-64)	157	26.2

Table 2

Education level

	<i>n</i>	%
None	10	1.7
Elementary	12	2.0
Middle school (lower secondary)	89	14.8
High school (upper secondary)	113	18.8
Vocational training school	186	31.0
University (bachelor)	150	25.0
Postgraduate (master, doctorate)	23	3.8
No answer	17	2.8

Table 3

¹⁰ The division of respondents according to urban and rural areas in all selected municipalities/cities is presented in the chart attached to this report as appendix 3

Religious affiliation

	<i>n</i>	%
Muslim	249	41.5
Orthodox	235	39.2
Christian	90	15.0
Catholic	5	0.8
Atheist	13	2.2
Other/no answer	8	1.3

Table 4*Ethnicity*

	<i>n</i>	%
Macedonian	356	59.3
Albanian	167	27.8
Roma	54	9.0
Turk	9	1.5
Bosnian	6	1.0
Other/no answer	8	1.3

Table 5*Employment status*

	<i>n</i>	%
Formally employed	189	31.5
Unemployed	136	22.7
Self-employed	45	7.5
Studying	45	7.5
Retired	40	6.7
Informally employed	48	8.0
Have never worked	72	12.0
Studying and working	9	1.5
No answer	16	2.7

Table 6

Civil status

	<i>n</i>	%
Married	324	54.0
Single	168	28.0
Living with partner	25	4.2
Dating relationship	30	5.0
Widowed	21	3.5
Divorced	10	1.7
Other/no answer	22	3.7

Table 7*Difficulties/disabilites*

	No difficulty (%)	Some difficulty (%)	A lot of difficulty (%)	Cannot do at all (%)
Do you have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?	81.2	17.5	0.5	0.8
Do you have difficulty hearing, even if using a hearing aid?	93.3	4.3	1.3	1.0
Do you have difficulty walking or climbing steps?	88.0	9.8	1.2	0.8
Do you have difficulty remembering or concentrating?	87.2	11.3	1.0	0.3
Do you have difficulty (with self-care such as) washing all over or dressing?	96.5	2.3	0.2	1.0
Using your usual (customary) language, do you have difficulty communicating, for example understanding or being understood?	94.2	4.0	0.8	1.0

Table 8

5. QUANTITATIVE RESULTS

This section contains information related to respondents' attitudes, knowledge, and understanding of gender equality and violence against women and girls. In some tables, cumulative percentages do not equal 100, as a certain percentage of respondents declined to answer some questions.

9. Do you know if there is any law on gender equality in the country?

A little over half of respondents were aware of the existence of a law on gender equality, and a large proportion did not know if such a law existed. Adults were the most knowledgeable age group, and adolescents were the least.

	<i>Yes</i>		<i>No</i>		<i>Don't know</i>	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Total	333	55.5	84	14.0	165	27.5
Female	159	51.8	50	16.3	88	28.7
Male	174	59.4	34	11.6	77	26.3
Adolescents	23	46.9	10	20.4	12	24.5
Young adults	82	50.9	29	18.0	46	28.6
Adults	152	65.2	20	8.6	54	23.2
Seniors	76	48.4	25	15.9	53	33.8

Table 9

10. Do women have the same legal rights as men to...

This series of questions examined respondents' attitudes toward gender equality and opinions on the legal rights of women and men. In their responses, participants may also have considered their opinion on whether women and men *should* have the following legal rights, though they were not specifically instructed to do so.

a. Be elected to high political decision-making positions?						
	<i>Yes</i>		<i>No</i>		<i>Don't know</i>	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Total	514	85.7	49	8.2	31	5.2
Female	257	83.7	28	9.1	19	6.2
Male	257	87.7	21	7.2	12	4.1
Adolescents	43	87.8	2	4.1	3	6.1
Young adults	138	85.7	12	7.5	11	6.8
Adults	202	86.7	21	9.0	7	3.0
Seniors	131	83.4	14	8.9	10	6.4

Table 10a

b. Own/administer property (other than land)?						
	<i>Yes</i>		<i>No</i>		<i>Don't know</i>	
	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Total	518	86.3	41	6.8	37	6.2
Female	255	83.1	27	8.8	25	8.1
Male	263	89.8	14	4.8	12	4.1
Adolescents	38	77.6	4	8.2	6	12.2
Young adults	141	87.6	12	7.5	8	5.0
Adults	204	87.6	15	6.4	12	5.2
Seniors	135	86.0	10	6.4	11	7.0

Table 10b

c. Own and/or access agricultural land?						
	<i>Yes</i>		<i>No</i>		<i>Don't know</i>	
	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Total	489	81.5	57	9.5	46	7.7
Female	247	80.5	29	9.4	28	9.6
Male	242	82.6	28	9.6	18	6.1
Adolescents	34	69.4	6	12.2	8	16.3
Young adults	128	79.5	19	11.8	12	7.5
Adults	194	83.3	18	7.7	18	7.7
Seniors	133	84.7	14	8.9	8	5.1

Table 10c

d. Access credit and bank loans?						
	<i>Yes</i>		<i>No</i>		<i>Don't know</i>	
	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
Total	536	89.3	33	5.5	26	4.3
Female	277	90.2	16	5.2	13	4.2
Male	259	88.4	17	5.8	13	4.4
Adolescents	43	87.8	2	4.1	4	8.2
Young adults	150	93.2	7	4.3	4	2.5
Adults	208	89.3	13	5.6	9	3.9
Seniors	135	86.0	11	7.0	9	5.7

Table 10d

e. Have custody rights over a child after divorce?						
	<i>Yes</i>		<i>No</i>		<i>Don't know</i>	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Total	547	91.2	21	3.5	27	4.5
Female	280	91.2	8	2.6	17	5.5
Male	267	91.1	13	4.4	10	3.4
Adolescents	44	89.8	1	2.0	2	4.1
Young adults	152	94.4	3	1.9	6	3.7
Adults	212	91.0	9	3.9	11	4.7
Seniors	139	88.5	8	5.1	8	5.1

Table 10e

f. Inheritance?						
	<i>Yes</i>		<i>No</i>		<i>Don't know</i>	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Total	530	88.3	32	5.3	31	5.2
Female	262	85.3	21	6.8	21	6.8
Male	268	91.5	11	3.8	10	3.4
Adolescents	39	79.6	2	4.1	5	10.2
Young adults	144	89.4	8	5.0	8	5.0
Adults	208	89.3	13	5.6	11	4.7
Seniors	139	88.5	9	5.7	7	4.5

Table 10f

g. Decide on the number of children they want to have?						
	<i>Yes</i>		<i>No</i>		<i>Don't know</i>	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Total	478	79.7	48	8.0	58	9.7
Female	236	76.9	30	9.8	34	11.1
Male	242	82.6	18	6.1	24	8.2
Adolescents	37	75.5	3	6.1	5	10.2
Young adults	128	79.5	14	8.7	15	9.3
Adults	187	80.3	20	8.6	21	9.0
Seniors	126	80.3	11	7.0	17	10.8

Table 10g

h. Freely and equally access public space?						
	<i>Yes</i>		<i>No</i>		<i>Don't know</i>	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Total	556	92.7	22	3.7	15	2.5
Female	284	92.5	9	2.9	10	3.3
Male	272	92.8	13	4.4	5	1.7
Adolescents	44	89.8	2	4.1	1	2.0
Young adults	154	95.7	5	3.1	2	1.2
Adults	216	92.7	7	3.0	6	2.6
Seniors	142	90.4	8	5.1	6	3.8

Table 10h

i. The legal minimum age of marriage?						
	<i>Yes</i>		<i>No</i>		<i>Don't know</i>	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Total	385	64.2	87	14.5	91	15.2
Female	173	56.4	55	17.9	51	16.6
Male	212	72.4	32	10.9	40	13.7
Adolescents	26	53.1	11	22.4	7	14.3
Young adults	103	64.0	23	14.3	26	16.1
Adults	149	63.9	30	12.9	35	15.0
Seniors	107	68.2	23	14.6	23	14.6

Table 10i

11. Do you know if there is any law against violence against women and/or domestic violence in the country?

Almost three-fourths of respondents were aware of legislation prohibiting violence against women and/or domestic violence. This knowledge was most common among adolescents.

	<i>Yes</i>		<i>No</i>		<i>Don't know</i>	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Total	442	73.7	46	7.7	80	13.3
Female	218	71.0	28	9.1	48	15.6
Male	224	76.5	18	6.1	32	10.9
Adolescents	39	79.6	5	10.2	2	4.1
Young adults	115	71.4	13	8.1	24	14.9

Adults	172	73.8	13	5.6	34	14.6
Seniors	116	73.9	15	9.6	20	12.7

Table 11

12. Are the following forms of violence against women and girls punishable by law?

Respondents were not fully informed on the content of legislation prohibiting violence against women, particularly lesser-known forms of violence, such as economic and psychological, as well as other forms of violence such as stalking. In Table 12, gender-disaggregated percentages are provided when responses significantly differ between women and men. In general, women were less knowledgeable than men on the specific types of violence against women prohibited by law.

	<i>Yes (%)</i>	<i>No (%)</i>	<i>Don't know (%)</i>
<i>Physical violence</i>	89.0	5.2	4.8
<i>Psychological violence</i>	68.3 61.6 (F) 75.4 (M)	15.5 21.2 (F) 9.6 (M)	14.5
<i>Economic violence</i>	46.8 39.4 (F) 54.6 (M)	23.0 29.6 (F) 16.0 (M)	27.5
<i>Domestic violence</i>	84.7	6.5	6.8
<i>Forced marriage</i>	67.5 63.2 (F) 72.0 (M)	13.3 16.0 (F) 10.6 (M)	17.0
<i>Stalking</i>	51.3 45.9 (F) 57.0 (M)	15.8 20.5 (F) 10.9 (M)	27.5
<i>Trafficking and sexual exploitation</i>	87.2	3.3	7.5
<i>Crime in the name of honor</i>	79.2 75.2 (F) 83.3 (M)	6.5	12.3 16.6 (F) 7.8 (M)
<i>Childhood sexual abuse</i>	88.0	3.0	6.7
<i>Sexual harassment</i>	75.3 70.7 (F) 80.2 (M)	6.8	14.5 18.9 (F) 9.9 (M)
<i>Rape/sexual assault</i>	89.0	3.5	4.3
<i>Female genital mutilation (FGM)</i>	62.7 54.4 (F) 71.3 (M)	7.8	20.2 26.1 (F) 14.0 (M)
<i>Forced abortion</i>	67.5 59.6 (F) 75.8 (M)	8.7 10.4 (F) 6.8 (M)	20.7 25.7 (F) 15.4 (M)

Table 12

Percentage of respondents by age group who answered “Yes” to the following question: “Are the following forms of violence against women and girls are punishable by law?”				
	Adolescents	Young adults	Adults	Seniors
<i>Physical violence</i>	91.8	89.4	88.0	89.2
<i>Psychological violence</i>	63.3	67.1	70.8	67.5
<i>Economic violence</i>	34.7	40.4	51.1	51.0
<i>Domestic violence</i>	87.8	89.4	84.5	79.0
<i>Forced marriage</i>	61.2	64.0	69.5	70.1
<i>Stalking</i>	42.9	52.8	50.6	53.5
<i>Trafficking and sexual exploitation</i>	89.8	85.7	86.7	88.5
<i>Crime in the name of honor</i>	67.3	80.7	77.7	83.4
<i>Childhood sexual abuse</i>	83.7	90.1	84.5	92.4
<i>Sexual harassment</i>	71.4	75.8	74.7	77.1
<i>Rape/sexual assault</i>	89.8	91.3	85.8	91.1
<i>Female genital mutilation (FGM)</i>	38.8	59.6	64.8	70.1
<i>Forced abortion</i>	63.3	67.1	66.1	71.3

Table 13

13. Would a person be punished if he/she:

In addition to their knowledge of the law as it related to violence against women, this question attempts to uncover respondents’ perception of the implementation of the law. Gender-disaggregated data is provided when responses significantly differ between women and men. In nearly all categories, women were less certain than men that perpetrators of violence would be punished.

	<i>Yes (%)</i>	<i>No (%)</i>	<i>Don’t know (%)</i>
<i>Beats/abuses her/his spouse/cohabitant</i>	86.7 82.4 (F) 91.1 (M)	6.8 9.1 (F) 4.4 (M)	5.7 7.2 (F) 4.1 (M)
<i>Beats her/his partner(not in a marital or cohabitant relationship)</i>	77.8 73.0 (F) 82.9 (M)	10.5 14.0 (F) 6.8 (M)	10.2 11.4 (F) 8.9 (M)
<i>Beats/abuses other family members</i>	84.8	7.3	6.7
<i>Stalks another person</i>	51.8	18.5	27.2

	43.3 (F) 60.8 (M)	23.1 (F) 13.7 (M)	30.9 (F) 23.2 (M)
<i>Forces sexual relations on her/his partner/spouse</i>	59.7 49.2 (F) 70.6 (M)	14.7 18.6 (F) 10.6 (M)	21.7 27.7 (F) 15.4 (M)
<i>Has sexual relation with a child under age of 14</i>	89.0	2.8	5.5
<i>Forces a woman or a girl to commit an abortion</i>	67.8 58.0 (F) 78.2 (M)	11.2 14.7 (F) 7.5 (M)	19.0 24.4 (F) 13.3 (M)
<i>Forces a woman/girl to marry him</i>	65.0 54.7 (F) 75.8 (M)	12.0 15.6 (F) 8.2 (M)	20.5 26.4 (F) 14.3 (M)
<i>Forces a girl to undergo FGM</i>	64.7 55.4 (F) 74.4 (M)	5.5	21.8 30.0 (F) 13.3 (M)
<i>Exercises psychological violence against another person</i>	64.5 53.7 (F) 75.8 (M)	16.0 23.1 (F) 8.5 (M)	16.8 19.9 (F) 13.6 (M)
<i>Exercises economic violence against another person</i>	53.0 44.6 (F) 61.8 (M)	19.8 26.4 (F) 13.0 (M)	23.8 25.1 (F) 22.5 (M)
<i>Uses a person for purposes of trafficking or sexual exploitation</i>	85.3 80.8 (F) 90.1 (M)	3.8	8.2 10.4 (F) 5.8 (M)
<i>Kills someone in the name of "honor"</i>	88.8	4.3	5.2
<i>Harasses sexually another person</i>	86.8 82.1 (F) 91.8 (M)	5.3 6.8 (F) 3.8 (M)	6.3 9.4 (F) 3.1 (M)
<i>Rapes/sexually assaults another person</i>	90.3	3.0	4.3

Table 14

Although nearly all respondents were aware that rape/sexual assault is a crime (Table 13), **only 59.7 percent of respondents (and only 49.2 percent of women) believed that a person would be punished for forcing sex on his/her partner/spouse** (Table 14). This seeming contradiction may be the result of 1) not perceiving marital rape as equally criminal as rape in other circumstances, and/or 2) not trusting that the law will be implemented effectively for this crime.

	Adolescents (%)	Young adults (%)	Adults (%)	Seniors (%)
<i>Beats/abuses her/his spouse/cohabitant</i>	89.8	88.8	84.5	86.6
<i>Beats her/his partner(not in a marital or cohabitant relationship)</i>	75.5	79.5	75.1	80.9
<i>Beats/abuses other family members</i>	89.8	89.4	81.5	83.4

<i>Stalks another person</i>	49.0	52.8	52.4	51.0
<i>Forces sexual relations on her/his partner/spouse</i>	57.1	62.1	57.9	60.5
<i>Has sexual relation with a child under age of 14</i>	89.8	91.3	85.4	91.7
<i>Forces a woman or a girl to commit an abortion</i>	69.4	66.5	67.4	69.4
<i>Forces a woman/girl to marry him</i>	73.5	63.4	63.1	66.9
<i>Forces a girl to undergo FGM</i>	53.1	61.5	65.7	70.1
<i>Exercises psychological violence against another person</i>	77.6	64.0	64.8	60.5
<i>Exercises economic violence against another person</i>	42.9	49.7	54.1	58.0
<i>Uses a person for purposes of trafficking or sexual exploitation</i>	79.6	82.6	85.4	89.8
<i>Kills someone in the name of "honor"</i>	91.8	88.2	88.8	88.5
<i>Harasses sexually another person</i>	93.9	87.6	85.0	86.6
<i>Rapes/sexually assaults another person</i>	93.9	90.7	87.6	93.0

Table 15

14. What do you think about the following statements?

These questions collected respondents' attitudes toward traditional gender norms and gender equality. Unsurprisingly, women presented more equitable attitudes than men in nearly every category (Table 16). Compared to respondents from other countries, respondents from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (men, in particular) showed greater support for traditional, patriarchal gender roles.

		Strongly agree (%)	Agree (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly disagree (%)
If women are elected in key decision-making positions, they are violating the men's right to have such positions.	<i>Female</i>	2.3	8.1	40.1	46.9
	<i>Male</i>	5.5	10.6	51.5	30.7
Women and men must have different payments, even for the same work, because they are different and have different responsibilities in their families.	<i>Female</i>	2.9	6.8	37.1	50.5
	<i>Male</i>	5.8	16.0	44.0	33.1

Girls must be taught to be good wives and care for domestic work; education, carrier, business and leadership are for boys.	<i>Female</i>	3.6	13.0	34.5	46.3
	<i>Male</i>	9.6	21.8	36.5	29.0
Women must visit the doctor only when they have the permit from their husbands or family members.	<i>Female</i>	1.0	3.3	29.6	63.2
	<i>Male</i>	3.1	8.2	41.0	46.8
A woman cannot pretend to inherit land/property from her family of origin, because she belongs to her husband's family.	<i>Female</i>	1.6	7.8	35.5	50.2
	<i>Male</i>	5.8	11.3	42.3	37.5
If women will start to gain power they will neglect their duties to care for domestic work and will destroy family balance	<i>Female</i>	2.6	11.1	33.6	48.2
	<i>Male</i>	4.4	17.7	40.6	33.4

Table 16

15. What do you think about the following statements?

These questions examined participants' attitudes toward violence against women and domestic violence. Respondents showed relatively strong support for statements that justify violence against women and place blame on women victims of violence. Compared to other countries, women respondents were particularly supportive of these statements.

		Strongly agree (%)	Agree (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly disagree (%)
Men are violent by nature.	<i>Female</i>	5.5	26.1	43.6	18.9
	<i>Male</i>	5.1	22.9	40.6	24.2
Sometimes violence is a way of showing affection.	<i>Female</i>	1.6	12.1	40.4	41.0
	<i>Male</i>	2.0	18.8	43.3	33.1
A woman should put up with violence in order to keep her family together.	<i>Female</i>	3.3	19.2	31.6	39.7
	<i>Male</i>	3.8	19.8	38.9	33.4
Some women like to be beaten.	<i>Female</i>	7.8	31.3	29.6	23.8

	<i>Male</i>	11.9	34.8	31.4	17.1
There's nothing wrong with mistreating an LGBTI person; they are breaking the laws of nature.*	<i>Female</i>	1.6	8.5	32.6	32.2
	<i>Male</i>	7.2	14.3	35.2	27.0
Girls/women who are sexually harassed or sexually abused provoke it themselves.	<i>Female</i>	2.6	16.3	35.5	37.1
	<i>Male</i>	3.1	24.6	37.9	24.2
If a woman doesn't physically fight back, it's not rape.**	<i>Female</i>	8.5	18.6	25.7	31.6
	<i>Male</i>	8.5	22.2	32.8	24.2

Table 17 *25.1% of women and 16.4% of men did not answer this question. **15.6% of women and 12.3% of men did not answer this question.

16. What do you think about the following sentences?

These questions examined respondents' tolerance toward gender-based discrimination and violence. While women showed less support than men for these statements, they were more tolerant of violence than women from other countries participating in this study.

		Strongly agree (%)	Agree (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly disagree (%)
A good woman obeys her husband even if she disagrees.	<i>Female</i>	5.2	23.8	33.9	30.9
	<i>Male</i>	10.6	29.4	37.2	18.8
It is important for a man to show his wife/partner who is the boss.	<i>Female</i>	4.2	18.9	36.2	36.2
	<i>Male</i>	8.2	21.8	45.7	23.2
Children belong to the man and his family.	<i>Female</i>	2.3	6.5	38.1	51.1
	<i>Male</i>	3.8	10.6	47.1	34.5
If a woman is doing paid work, she must deliver the money to her husband.	<i>Female</i>	1.0	9.1	34.9	51.1
	<i>Male</i>	4.4	12.6	48.1	32.4
The husband/male partner has a good reason to hit his wife/female partner, if she	<i>Female</i>	0.3	4.6	35.2	57.7

does not complete her household work to his satisfaction.	<i>Male</i>	1.4	6.1	46.8	44.4
The husband/male partner has a good reason to hit his wife/female partner, if he suspects that she is unfaithful.	<i>Female</i>	.7	7.2	37.8	50.5
	<i>Male</i>	1.7	10.2	47.8	37.2
The husband/male partner has a good reason to hit his wife/female partner, if he finds out that she has been unfaithful.	<i>Female</i>	3.6	13.4	35.5	42.0
	<i>Male</i>	7.5	15.0	42.0	32.1
It's a wife's obligation to have sex with her husband even if she doesn't feel like it.	<i>Female</i>	1.3	7.5	38.4	42.7
	<i>Male</i>	2.7	11.3	51.5	30.7
It is a woman's responsibility to avoid getting pregnant.	<i>Female</i>	1.6	4.9	37.8	45.3
	<i>Male</i>	2.7	5.8	52.2	35.2
An abused woman must seek help from her family and not from police.	<i>Female</i>	2.0	18.9	41.0	30.6
	<i>Male</i>	5.1	21.5	42.7	25.3
If a man mistreats his wife, others outside of the family should NOT intervene.	<i>Female</i>	2.0	14.0	39.4	39.7
	<i>Male</i>	6.1	17.1	42.7	28.0

Table 18

17. In the past 12 months, have you heard about issues related to the prevention of violence against women and girls and/or the equality between women and men and girl and boys through:

TV programmes, movies, newspapers, and social media were the channels of communication that most often reached respondents with messages related to the prevention of violence against women and girls and/or gender equality.

		Very often (%)	Often (%)	Rarely (%)	Not at all (%)
17.1	<i>TV Spots/Movies</i>	13.2	42.3	32.2	10.2
17.2	<i>TV Emissions/debates</i>	14.5	39.3	34.8	8.7
17.3	<i>Radio Spots</i>	2.2	8.7	33.3	45.7
17.4	<i>Radio Emissions/debates</i>	3.5	10.5	36.3	40.5

17.5	<i>Newspapers</i>	6.5	26.0	34.2	26.3
17.6	<i>Leaflets</i>	3.8	12.2	31.3	46.8
17.7	<i>Posters</i>	3.3	14.8	31.8	44.3
17.8	<i>Billboards</i>	2.8	18.7	32.7	40.5
17.9	<i>Social media</i>	19.5	29.7	25.0	19.7
17.10	<i>Exhibitions</i>	2.7	6.8	22.5	56.3
17.11	<i>Marches</i>	4.0	9.7	27.7	49.3
17.12	<i>Meetings</i>	2.5	6.2	20.5	61.0
17.13	<i>Trainings</i>	2.3	8.8	17.8	62.3
17.14	<i>Religious rituals/meetings</i>	8.7	11.8	15.5	54.5
17.15	<i>Sport games</i>	1.7	6.0	13.8	69.0
17.16	<i>Songs</i>	2.8	11.5	21.8	53.8

Table 19

18. In the past 12 months, have you discussed issues related to the prevention of violence against women and girls with...

Even among family and friends, a relatively small proportion of respondents had discussed issues related to the prevention of violence against women and girls.

		Very often (%)	Often (%)	Rarely (%)	Not at all (%)
18.1	<i>Your husband/wife/partner</i>	5.0	17.5	40.5	18.5
18.2	<i>Your relatives</i>	2.7	17.3	49.8	26.5
18.3	<i>Your parents</i>	4.0	13.5	37.5	30.2
18.4	<i>Parents of your husband/wife/partner</i>	2.0	4.0	22.3	39.0
18.5	<i>Your biological female children</i>	3.5	12.5	14.8	22.0
18.6	<i>Your biological male children</i>	3.3	7.7	13.5	23.0
18.7	<i>Your husband/wife/partner' female children</i>	1.5	4.2	4.7	14.7

18.8	<i>Your husband/wife/partner' male children</i>	1.8	3.0	5.8	14.7
18.9	<i>Your female friends</i>	5.3	25.2	38.3	21.2
18.10	<i>Your male friends</i>	4.7	18.2	38.7	29.2
18.11	<i>Your husband/wife/partner' female friends</i>	1.5	6.3	20.2	40.0
18.12	<i>Your husband/wife/partner' male friends</i>	1.2	4.5	19.5	41.3
18.13	<i>Your female colleagues</i>	3.7	12.0	25.2	34.2
18.14	<i>Your male colleagues</i>	1.7	4.8	11.5	58.2
18.15	<i>NGO female specialist</i>	1.7	4.2	10.5	60.0
18.16	<i>NGO male specialist</i>	1.5	4.7	15.8	59.3
18.17	<i>Public administration female staff</i>	1.5	4.8	12.5	61.8
18.18	<i>Public administration male staff</i>	2.0	5.0	15.2	63.7
18.19	<i>Female doctor</i>	2.0	5.0	14.0	65.0
18.20	<i>Male doctor</i>	1.7	3.5	11.5	68.3
18.21	<i>Female police officer</i>	1.7	4.2	13.5	66.0
18.22	<i>Male police officer</i>	0.5	2.5	7.8	73.3
18.23	<i>Female judge</i>	0.5	2.7	8.7	73.2
18.24	<i>Male judge</i>	2.7	9.0	21.0	56.3
18.25	<i>Female teacher</i>	2.2	7.8	18.3	60.7
18.26	<i>Male teacher</i>	1.5	6.5	15.2	64.2
18.27	<i>Female psychologist/social worker</i>	1.5	4.7	13.0	67.5
18.28	<i>Male psychologist/social worker</i>	5.0	17.5	40.5	18.5

Table 20

19. In the near future, would you be willing to...

These questions assessed respondents' willingness to act positively and proactively in the future. Overall, compared to other countries, respondents from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia showed relatively low willingness to intervene in violent situations and make efforts to prevent them. Gender-disaggregated data is provided when responses differ significantly between women and men. In a few instances, women provided more positive responses than men, although this was less common than in responses from other countries. High levels of discrimination against the LGBTI community is apparent in question 19.13, while discrimination against ethnic minorities and the refugee/immigrant population can be seen in questions 19.13 – 19.15.

		Yes (%)	No (%)	Don't know (%)
19.1	Assist a woman being beaten by her husband or partner?	76.7 <i>81.4 (F)</i> <i>71.7 (M)</i>	5.7 <i>2.9 (F)</i> <i>8.5 (M)</i>	14.7 <i>12.4 (F)</i> <i>17.1 (M)</i>
19.2	Protect your children from violence by calling police?	85.5	4.2	7.7
19.3	Leave an abusive relationship by seeking support from service providers?	72.0	7.5	16.0
19.4	Leave an abusive relationship by seeking support from family/relatives?	71.2 <i>75.6 (F)</i> <i>66.6 (M)</i>	10.7 <i>6.8 (F)</i> <i>14.7 (M)</i>	13.2 <i>12.4 (F)</i> <i>14.0 (M)</i>
19.5	Report a violent incident that happened to someone else to the police?	70.2	9.5	16.7
19.6	Report a violent incident that happened to you to the police?	79.0	6.3	11.0
19.7	Request a protection order if you're subjected to violence?	75.2 <i>79.8 (F)</i> <i>70.3 (M)</i>	6.7 <i>3.3 (F)</i> <i>10.2 (M)</i>	13.8 <i>13.0 (F)</i> <i>14.7 (M)</i>
19.8	Request the punishment of the perpetrator (send him to prison) despite the relation you might have with him/her?	70.3	7.8	18.2
19.9	Support actions against child marriage?	67.3 <i>71.7 (F)</i> <i>62.8 (M)</i>	12.7 <i>10.1 (F)</i> <i>15.4 (M)</i>	13.8 <i>11.7 (F)</i> <i>16.0 (M)</i>
19.10	Not intend to marry your daughter(s) before the age of 18?	67.5	12.5	11.8
19.11	Engage in actions to prevent different forms of violence against women and girls?	67.5	8.3	17.5
19.12	Not intend to force your partner/wife/husband to have sexual relation if she/he doesn't want to?	72.0	6.7	11.7
19.13	Engage in actions to prevent violence against LGBTI community?	33.2	25.5	25.5
19.14	Engage in actions to prevent violence against Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian community?	53.7	13.2	24.0
19.15	Engage in actions to prevent violence against refugees and migrant women in your country?	55.2	13.5	21.8
19.16	Engage in actions to stop forced abortion?	63.5	9.5	19.7
19.17	Not intent to force your female partner/wife/daughter to do an abortion?	68.7	7.3	14.2
19.18	Engage in actions to stop female genital mutilation?	59.2	7.8	19.5
19.19	Not intend to have any of your daughter(s) undergo female genital mutilation?	-	-	-
19.20	Engage in actions to prevent trafficking of women and girls?	71.0	7.8	14.3
19.21	Engage in actions to prevent stalking?	54.8	13.0	21.8

Table 21

6. QUALITATIVE INFORMATION

Qualitative information¹¹ gathered through in-depth interviews and focus group discussions¹² aimed to identify initiatives undertaken over the last five years to address the gender stereotypes and traditional norms that justify violence against women. The final goal was to select and analyse from these initiatives the ones considered most successful.

Interviews were conducted with key public and private institutions responsible for dealing with gender equality (GE), VAWG and DV issues. Candidates for in-depth interviews were selected by CRPM, in close collaboration with the UN Women office in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In total, 14 interviews were conducted, three with state institutions and eleven with specialized NGOs focused on GE, VAWG and DV issues. Findings from the analysis of the qualitative information (including information received from three focus group discussions) are presented below.

CONTEXT, CHALLENGES AND INSIGHTS:

- Women’s NGOs in the country have a long history of activism related to the prevention of VAWG and DV, and they have played an essential role in improving women’s rights by strengthening legislation. They acknowledge that while significant improvements have been made in terms of legislation, less progress has been achieved in terms of implementation.
- Some interviewees highlight the positive changes that have taken place over the previous 20 years in terms of legislation and dedicated institutions on GE, VAWG, and DV. However, despite the existence of this legislation, the specific institutions established based on this legal framework are not fully utilized for the purposes for which they were formed, and they are not working toward better implementation of existing legislation. For example, gender commissions are composed of representatives from political parties who are subject to national elections every four years, leading to unsustainable and inconsistent leadership for the commissions. In addition, political representatives often lack in-depth knowledge of issues related to gender equality and violence against women, so significant time and resources are needed following each election cycle to build the knowledge and capacities of commission members. Furthermore, there are no specific budgets dedicated to the implementation of the existing legal framework on GE, VAWG and DV, nor are there specific indicators to measure their implementation.
- Interviewees mentioned that there is a gap in the protection of women from violence due to the fact that legislation is mainly focused on domestic violence and neglects to address other forms of violence against women. NGOs have sent petitions to public hearings and made additional efforts to expand the issue of domestic violence to the broader topic of violence against women, but thus far no concrete changes have been made in this direction. Service provision for women victims of violence, established and managed primarily by NGOs, is inadequate and dependent on financial support from donors. Services offered by

¹¹The interview guideline, together with other tools used for the baseline survey, is presented in the “Appendixes” chapter of the Programme Baseline Report.

¹² CRPM organized three focus group discussions

the State are lacking in infrastructure and human capacities, and not all of them meet the necessary standards for services they do provide.

- Macedonian society is more open to discussions about domestic violence than violence against women. High levels of prejudice toward victims exist among women themselves, who support victim-blaming attitudes and behaviours that justify men's violence against women.
- Focus group discussions with women community members revealed low levels of trust for service providers. In some cases, participants shared first- or second-hand stories of disappointing experiences with service providers in which they felt their (or their friend's) problem had not been resolved. As a result of these experiences, participants voiced limited support or even scepticism for awareness-raising campaigns and activities that encouraged women to report violence, noting that without the existence of high-quality services and protective measures for victims, encouraging women to speak out and report violence could cause more harm than good.
- Focus group participants also felt that messages related to the prevention of violence against women and domestic violence were often meant to target women, when in fact the emphasis should be placed on educating boys.
- In interviewees' opinions, rural women and women from ethnic minorities suffer disproportionately from VAWG and should more often be the main focus of awareness-raising activities.
- Television and social media were considered the best channels for disseminating information.

AWARENESS INITIATIVES AND CAMPAIGNS:

Most of the organizations selected for in-depth interviews have significant experience organizing awareness-raising campaigns, although these campaigns are not conducted on a regular basis due to a lack of financial resources; instead, campaigns have been organized as funds have become available, generally as part of projects supported by different donors. In addition, the majority of campaigns are not thoroughly or regularly monitored or evaluated, making it difficult to objectively determine their effectiveness.

- Many interviewees mentioned activities around the international campaign 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence. Some mentioned the activities organized at the beginning of this campaign (in form of seminars, lectures at universities, meetings or conferences), while others mentioned a series of activities organized throughout the sixteen days.
- ANTIKO has a long tradition of organizing activities in the frame of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence. In the 2017 campaign, they organized 18 activities focused

on diverse target groups, but their priorities were schools, professional educators, and centres for people with disabilities. Their primary activities were workshops organized in collaboration with local organizations.

- MREZHA organized “One Billion Rising”, a 2013 single-day global campaign on violence against women.
- ECHO organizes various activities in the frame of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence in collaboration with UNDP, USAID and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy.
- STRUMICA is also involved actively in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence campaign. During the 2017 campaign, they were financially supported by the Prime Minister’s office.
- HERA conducts campaigns specifically focused on reproductive rights. They have organized national campaigns such as "My life, my choice", "Three times measured once cut but never discriminate", and "Donation without discrimination".

SOME OF THE KEY AWARENESS ACTIVITIES/CAMPAIGN TOOLS used were:

Leaflets, debates, workshops, public debates, street events, performances, music performance, ballet performance, short films and documentaries, videos in internet and in social media, messages from activists on a video screen, events, conferences, flyers, TV Spots, leaflets, billboards,

CRPM also collected publications (brochures, guides, leaflets, and flyers) from the institutions and organizations that participated in the in-depth interviews with the objective of analysing their content. From this analysis, the following recommendations have been developed:

- Use simple, reader-friendly language. Technical/administrative language is less accessible and relatable.
- Always include essential contact information, such as telephone numbers, shelter locations, and/or legal aid assistance spots.
- An overemphasis on domestic violence may exclude victims of other forms of violence against women.
- Use attention-catching slogans, graphics and illustrations.

7. SUCCESS STORIES

This section identifies and analyses interventions undertaken in the past five years that were perceived as particularly successful. Due to the lack of monitoring and evaluation data on the interventions, success stories were chosen by CPRM based on information provided by interviewees.

1. Installation of billboard in the city centre of Tetovo

Quote: *“Mostly we use banners, whereas we use billboards less because they are more expensive. After the first billboard was put up, we immediately noticed a difference. We received 30% more calls.”*

2. National public campaign: “A real man does not hit women”

This was a public campaign conducted via TV and leaflets in the press. It was most recognizable by the respondents. The main “pull factor” here was that main protagonists in the campaign were three famous male athletes – Kiril Lazarov (handball player), Dejan Nedev (karate player), and Artim Shakiri (Albanian ethnic football player).

3. Promotion of SOS line via promo material through street events in Strumica (scarfs, leaflets)

Quote: *“The messages have had the effect of promoting the SOS line. The message ‘Report violence’ had an effect – they started calling. The messaging led to an increase in the number of women who personally visited the office. Now, over the last two years, they rarely call, but they frequently come here. We do not ask them why they come here instead of calling; probably the visit is more incognito and intimate. They are often recommended by friends to come here, and they already know what we do as an organization. Probably they come in person because it feels safer.”*

APPENDIX

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LIST OF INTERVIEWEES

NO	NAME OF THE INSTITUTION	NAME OF THE INTERVIEWEE	POSITION
1	Bisera – Ohrid	Nada Martinovska	President
2	Antiko	Gjuner Nebiu	President
3	Reactor	Sneshka	Senior researcher
4	Klea	Danica	
5	Mrezha / Network	Elena	Executive director
6	Skopje Social Care Centre		
7	Women’s Forum Tetovo	Dzane Starova	Director

8	Eho- Shtip	Beti Peeva	President
9	Municipality of Veles		
10	Organization of women of municipality of Strumica	Lence Hristova	Executive director
11	Hope		Supporting staff
12	National Council on Gender Equality	Savka Todorovska	President
13	HERA	Kristina Plecic	Program manager
14	Organization of Women of Municipality of Sveti Nikole	Jasminka Trajcova	Program manager

PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS BY LOCATION (URBAN/RURAL)

