CLIMATE CHANGE GENDER BASELINE STUDY

in the Municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka

UNDP

The views expressed in this document are those of the surveys and focus groups respondents and do not necessarily represent the views of UNDP.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

CSIP	Cross-Sectoral Intervention Plans
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GHG	Green House Gases
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
KEDS	Kosovo Electricity Distribution and Services
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
NAMA	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SLCA	Strengthening Local Climate Action
UNDP	United Nations Development Project
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

Summary

UNDP Kosovo conducted this Climate Change Gender Baseline Study in Suharekë/Suva Reka municipality for the sectors of energy, waste management, transport, public services, and rural development. Findings from data collection analysis methods, are driven by a mixed-methods research approach, surveys and focus groups, highlighting gender aspects.

The results show general awareness as well as concern with the impacts of climate change. All respondents are mainly informed about this topic from the internet, social media, television, etc. it was felt that responsible institutions, such as, governmental agencies, or municipalities do not necessarily inform the respondents enough about environmental issues. It is perceived that the most vulnerable groups to climate change are people with disabilities, the elderly, youth, children, and women.

The energy crises impacted the behaviour of the majority of respondents and provoked the beginning of the people's self-awareness, although the young generations declared having difficulties changing their behaviour besides increases in the prices of electricity. On the other hand, although the crises affected the majority of the women's ability to use energy on daily basis they are not represented properly in the decision-making structures of this sector. The majority reported obstacle to women's further engagement in the energy sector is perceived of being gender stereotypes, followed by insufficient career promotion opportunities for women in this sector and the difficulties in achieving work-family balances.

It is encouraging to note that most of the interviewed youth from Suharekë/Suva Reka declared that buses, walking, and biking are the major modes of transport that they use on daily basis. However, 50% of the women from the Municipality of Suharekë/Suvareka feel unsafe walking alone at night. The findings indicate that the agricultural sector is also negatively impacted by climate change. As compared to previous years, fewer production levels are noted this year, and the farmers are already losing (quantities, and financial benefits). However, climate-smart agriculture is an approach that helps guide actions to transform agri-food systems towards green and climate-resilient practices, and the majority of youth in Kosovo responded affirmatively when asked if they heard about this 'concept'. The report is rich with data from the researched categories (women, men, youth, and people with disabilities), and this analysis will help the readers, institutions, and stakeholders toward further development of the short and mid-term evidence-based plans and objectives for these sector(s) or field(s).

Introduction

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) defines climate change adaptation as "adjustments in ecological, social or economic systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli and their effects or impacts. This term refers to changes in processes, practices, and structures to moderate potential damages to or benefit from opportunities associated with climate change". Climate change impacts – such as rising sea levels, increases in ambient temperatures and increased variability in rainfall – can exacerbate the incidence of forest fires and loss of natural diversity. The effects of these changes filter down to men and women and ultimately impact more profoundly rural women who depend on their environment for their livelihood. Despite the guiding principles within the United Nations (UN) system to incorporate gender considerations, climate change policy-making (most visibly, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNFCCC) has failed to adopt a gender-sensitive approach. This failure not only generates concerns in terms of respect for gender equity, but also leads to shortcomings in the efficiency and efficacy of climate-related adaptation and mitigation measures and instruments.

Vulnerability to climate change can exacerbate the impacts of non-climatic stressors such as increased migration, rapid urbanization, uncertain energy security, unsustainable management of natural resources, and the loss of traditional coping mechanisms. Responding to climate change is not simply a matter of reducing the amount of greenhouse gas emissions into the earth's atmosphere, but is also about helping countries to build adaptive capacity and develop a sense of preparedness to reduce its negative impacts. To achieve this, it is important to understand the framework of analysis for gender and climate change that addresses vulnerabilities, adaptation, mitigation, and how engagement can take place. Compared to men, women are affected differently, and often more severely by climate change and associated natural disasters such as floods, droughts, cyclones, and storms. This is mainly because men and women are bound by distinct socio-economic roles and responsibilities that give rise to differences in vulnerability and ability to cope with these climate change consequences.[1]

Thus, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project 'Strengthening Local Climate Action' (SLCA) initiated this research seeking to identify the potential gender-related climate change risks and priority needs of women, men, and disadvantaged groups in

[1] See Gender and Climate Change: Impact and Adaptation: https://www.undp.org/asia-pacific/publications/gender-and-climate-change-impact-and-adaptation

Suharekë/Suva Reka municipality. The insights and recommendations generated from the study will enable defining inclusive interventions for the sectors of energy, waste management, transport, public services, and rural development of the climate change Cross-Sectoral Intervention Plan (CSIP).

The SLCA project is supporting Kosovo municipalities in their transition towards zero-emission development pathways by building on the results of the successful project "Urban NAMAs (Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions)" in Prizren and extending it to sustainable rural development and the Municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka. The goal is to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and contribute to carbon-neutral development through an integrated and gender-sensitive approach of supporting informed decision-making through data, with an increased focus on rural areas, the dynamics between rural and urban areas, social innovation, and stakeholder platforms, food systems and financing to enable a green recovery from COVID-19. As part of its commitment to sustainable development, the UNDP provides support to the local and central institutions towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, Goal 11, Sustainable Cities and Communities with SLCA project.

Figure 1. UN Development Goals

The findings of this research will help the initiators to identify and develop further the climate change needs and approaches for addressing the issues across various areas including, gender equality, social inclusion, and partnerships outreach. The overall objective of this study is to also identify climate change priorities, gaps, and solutions of the Municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka. The insights and recommendations generated from the study enabled defining inclusive interventions for the CSIP. The study also helped address what can contribute to better mainstream gender and social inclusion considerations in the sector i.e., enhancing access to financing for women, training, mentorship opportunity, change of cultural

and social norms, awareness-raising, improving mobility, imposing gender targets in the sector, developing gender-specific strategies to maximize the benefits for the poor and address the impacts on their lives and livelihoods, others.

Methodology

The objective of this study was to conduct a Gender Baseline Study to identify the potential gender-related climate change risks and priority needs of women, men, and disadvantaged groups. The specific scope of the study included conducting a climate change Gender Baseline Study in Suharekë/Suva Reka municipality for the sectors of energy, waste management, transport, public services, and rural development to be used in the process of drafting the Suharekë/Suva Reka climate change CSIP.

The field data collection in the Municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka is conducted from June until August, 2022. The scope of the study included conducting a climate change Gender Baseline Study for the sectors of energy, waste management, transport, public services, and rural development. For all the above-mentioned sectors, the study identified women's representation/participation in the sector, and the potential - cultural and social norms - barriers for women to participate in the sector *(i.e. lack of finances, training, skills, and opportunities; mentorship opportunities; gender targets; childcare facilities or discouraging workplace policies, etc.)*.

The baseline study included a methodology of combined quantitative and qualitative data collection instruments. Respectively, the instruments employed in the study included surveys, focused group discussions, and in-depth interviews.

The Gender Baseline Study survey was administered in the municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka and included a survey with a total of 750 respondents *(250 women, 250 men, and 250 - up to 25 years – youth, out of which 114 respondents were girls and 136 boys*.

The quotas were divided equally given that the analysis of the study will treat each of the target groups equally, while the sample design is based on the data from the Kosovo Agency of Statistics from the Census of 2011, disaggregated by gender and age. The margin of error is 6% with a confidence interval of 95%, therefore, the collected data are generalizable and representative of the population of interest. As far as a qualitative component is concerned, four (4) focus group discussions and two (2) in-depth interviews across the municipalities of Suharekë/Suva Reka were conducted. The qualitative data in the study allowed for grasping a deeper understanding of climate change vulnerabilities and priorities of green

measures/interventions in Suharekë/Suva Reka. The composition of focus group discussions was as follows:

- 1 FGD with women in the municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka
- 1 FGD with men in the municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka
- 1 FGD with youth in the municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka
- 1 FGD with people with disabilities in the municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka

In-depth interviews were conducted with public institutions in the municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka to further recognize the identification of women's representation/participation in the sector, and the potential barriers for women to participate in the sector i.e cultural and social norms; lack of finances, training, skills, and opportunities; mentorship opportunities; gender targets; childcare facilities or discouraging workplace policies, etc.). Respectively, the in-depth interviews were conducted as follows:

- one (1) in-depth interview with the Director of Culture, Youth, and Sports in the municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka
- one (1) in-depth interview with the Director of Urbanism in the municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka

To understand the potential issues that may occur during the administration of the questionnaire in the field, a pilot testing of the questionnaire was conducted to validate and evaluate the logic flow, and the quality of the questionnaire from the perspective of the respondent. After the finalization of the questionnaire, and training of the enumerators the questionnaires were encoded on Kobo Toolbox. For focus group discussions participants were recruited using the telephone method. Telephone numbers were generated through a database system that randomizes the numbers to offer equal opportunities for participating. The conducting of focus group discussions was carried out face-to-face at round tables in comfortable settings in the municipalities of Suharekë/Suva Reka. Field supervisors worked continuously to ensure that the daily targets of interviews have been met. The most frequent challenge that was encountered by enumerators during the data collection process was the refusal of chosen participants to continue the interview when they felt like it was taking a lot of time. Nonetheless, these challenges were overcome and this resulted in a satisfying participation rate for the targeted groups.

Key Findings of the Survey(s) with Women, Men, and Youth in Suharekë/Suva Reka

Climate Change

Kosovo Climate Change Strategy aims at making Kosovo resilient to climate change risks, fostering sustainable development, and exploiting the potential benefits arising from climate change mitigation and adaptation actions. The document calls for increasing energy efficiency in all sectors, developing renewable energy sources, and the sustainable use of natural resources. The Strategy and its action plan do not include any analyses of the gender-related climate change risks and priorities. [2]

The findings of this Gender Baseline Study Report indicate that although the majority of the interviewed respondents heard about climate change (86%), there is quite a number of those who declared that they haven't heard about it (13%). It is worth noting that the vast majority (81%) of men who declared that haven't heard about climate change have a high school level of education (see figure 2). When the responses are analysed on a gender basis, no significant differences are noted in the responses of men and women or even the age groups of the respondents.

Figure 2. Have you heard about climate change?

When asked about the means of information, the findings indicate that majority of respondents (90%) had heard about climate change from television, followed by 73% who had heard from social media, and friends/family (54%). It is interesting to see that only 18% declared that they have heard professional information about climate change from institutional agencies and professional environmental groups (see figure 3).

[2] KOSOVO: STRATEGY ON CLIMATE CHANGE 2014-2024, accessible at: file:///C:/Users/dell/Downloads/F_KEP_D0.00.08-Climate_Change_Strategy-2014_2024.pdf

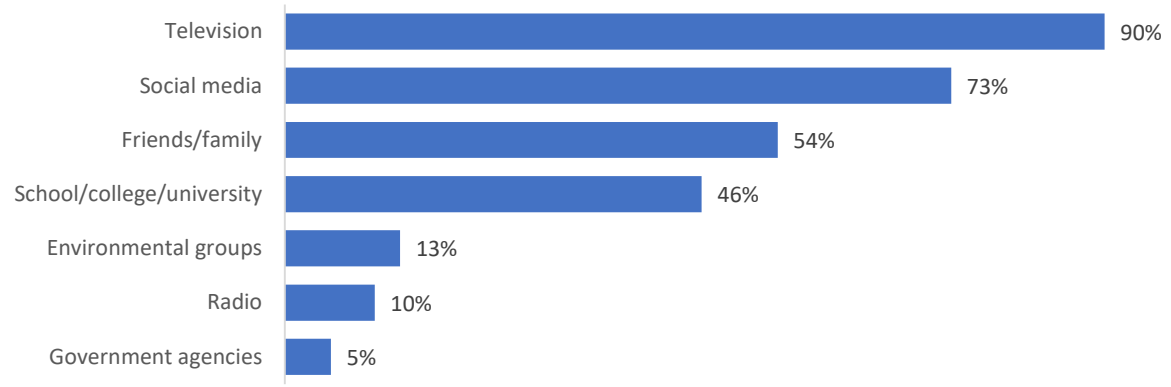

Figure 3. Where have you heard about climate change?

Energy Sector

Renewable energy is energy derived from natural sources that are replenished at a higher rate than they are consumed. Sunlight and wind, for example, are such sources that are constantly being replenished. The majority of the respondents (55%) declared being somewhat or moderately familiar with renewable energy. However, about 17% of them, highlighted being 'not familiar at all' with renewable energy (see figure 4). When these responses are analysed on a gender basis, the findings reveal that 65% of men – as compared to 60% of women - declared being familiar with renewable energy. The data also reveals that the majority of those that are familiar with renewable energy belong to the age group 36 – 56 years, are employed in the private sector, and have the education levels of high school or bachelor's degrees.

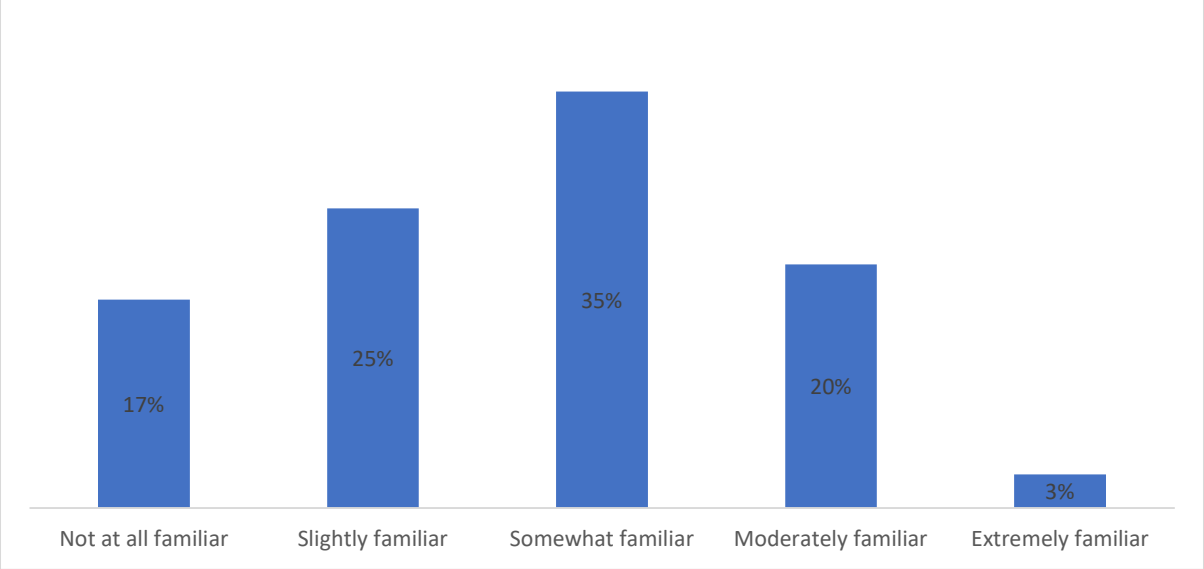

Figure 4. How familiar are you with renewable energy (on a scale from 1 to 5)?

Trying to assess energy poverty, the respondents were also asked if the energy crises affected their ability to use the needed energy on daily basis. Only 13% of the respondents declared that the recent global energy crises affected them greatly, while 40% of them noted that they were affected to some extent (see figure 5). However, the findings indicate that the crises affected the majority of the women's ability to use energy on daily basis (89%). The affect is particularly higher among those women who declared themselves of being between 25 – 35 years old, followed by those that declared belonging to the age group 46 – 55.

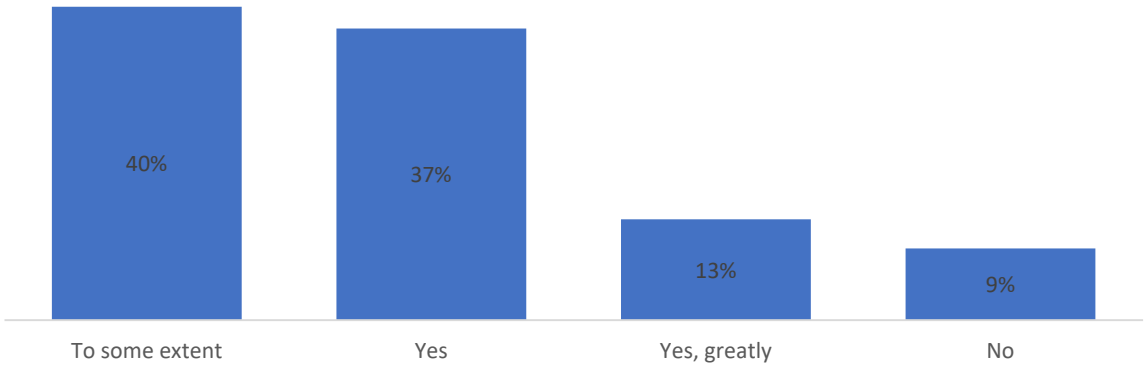

Figure 5. Has the global energy crisis affected your ability to adequately use energy for your daily needs?

The majority of the interviewed respondents from the Municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka rated women's participation in the energy sector as being fair (42%) or good (15%). Although, quite a large number of them also rated it as being poor (34%) or very poor (5%) (see figure 6). However, when we analysed the educational background of women that consider themselves being underrepresented in the energy sector, the findings indicated that the majority of them hold either bachelor's or master's degrees. Thus, there is a correlation between a higher level of education and a lower level of satisfaction with women's representation in the energy sector (see figure 8). It is worth noting that when these data are analysed on a gender basis, a large number of man respondents also rated women's employment in the energy sector as 'poor' (40%) or 'very poor' (7%).

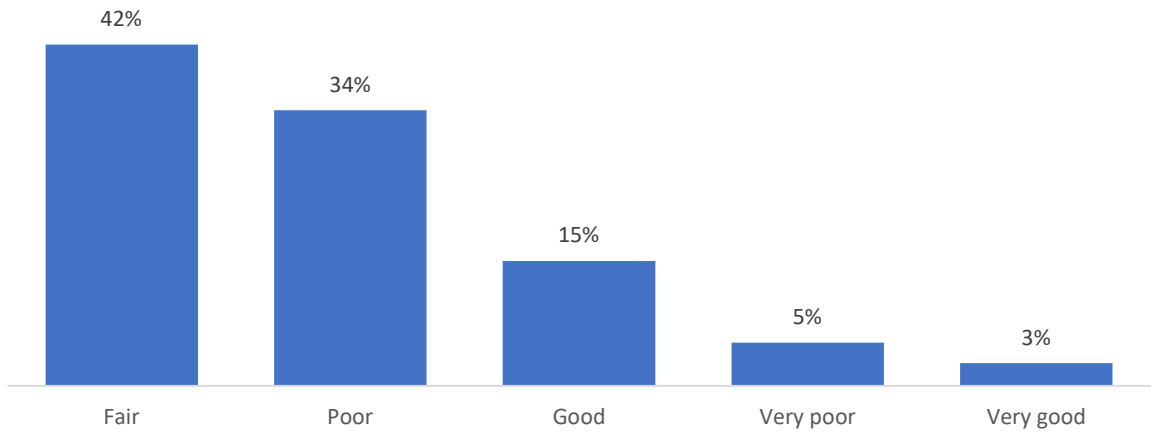

Figure 6. How would you rate women's employment in the energy sector?

According to the interviewed women in this survey, the major obstacle to further women's engagement in the energy sector is gender stereotypes, followed by insufficient career promotion opportunities for women, and difficulties in achieving work-family balances in this sector. However, it is worth noting that a number of the interviewed women also noted a lack of women's appropriate skills to work in this energy sector and personal safety. Although there are differences in the opinions of women and men as far as particular this question is concerned, they are not that statistically significant (see figure 7).

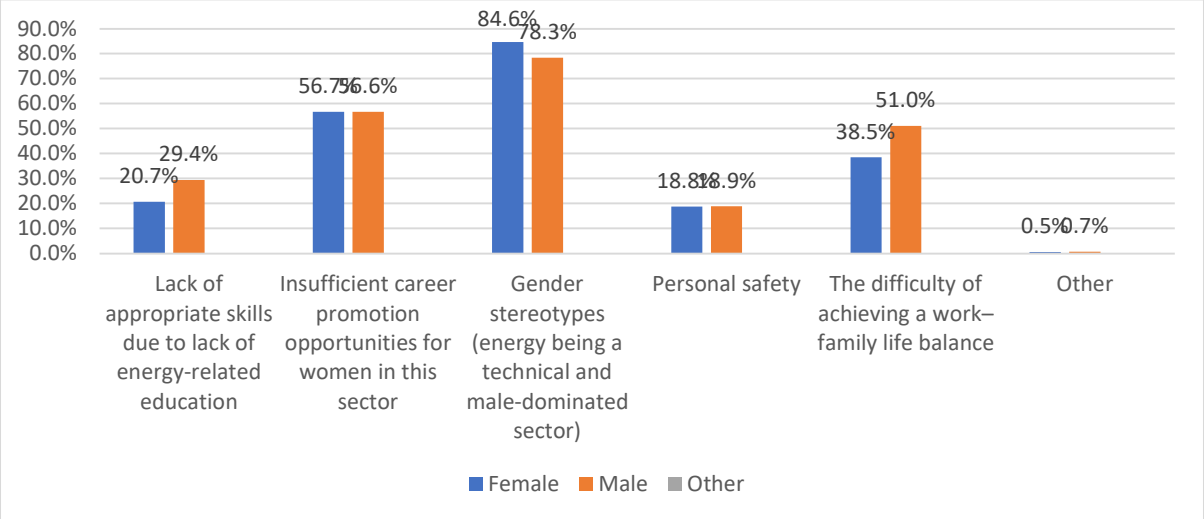

Figure 7. What do you consider obstacles to women's engagement in the energy sector (gender crosstabulation)?

The findings indicate that improving energy efficiency should be one of the municipality's most essential and high priorities. Enhancing women's participation in energy policy and education are also considered top recommendations for municipal institutions, followed by integrating energy efficiency resources into the systems as well as raising public awareness of energy

efficiency. The table below presents the intervention priorities data disaggregated by urban-rural as well as the gender of the respondents (see table 1).

Table 1. Priorities in the Energy Sector at the Local Level (disaggregated by gender and urban-rural)

Intervention	Priority Level	Women	Men	Urban	Rural
Improving energy efficiency	Not a priority	0.5%	0.3%	1.3%	0.2%
	Low priority	6.0%	8.0%	3.3%	8.0%
	Medium Priority	18.1%	25.9%	19.3%	22.8%
	High priority	37.4%	34.7%	35.3%	36.2%
	Essential	37.1%	30.3%	40.0%	32.0%
	I don't know/ Refuse to answer	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%	0.8%
Integrate renewable energy resources into energy systems.	Not a priority	0.3%	1.0%	0.7%	0.7%
	Low priority	11.5%	14.2%	9.3%	13.8%
	Medium Priority	27.7%	32.9%	34.0%	29.5%
	High priority	36.5%	29.3%	32.7%	32.8%
	Essential	23.1%	21.5%	22.7%	22.2%
	I don't know/ Refuse to answer	0.8%	1.0%	0.7%	1.0%
Enhance women's education in the energy sector	Not a priority	1.1%	0.8%	0.0%	1.2%
	Low priority	5.5%	8.5%	2.7%	8.2%
	Medium Priority	27.2%	29.5%	22.0%	30.0%
	High priority	39.6%	35.5%	48.0%	34.8%
	Essential	25.8%	23.8%	26.0%	24.5%
	I don't know/ Refuse to answer	0.8%	1.8%	1.3%	1.3%
Enhance women's participation in energy policy planning	Not a priority	1.1%	0.3%	0.7%	0.7%
	Low priority	8.5%	8.3%	3.3%	9.7%
	Medium Priority	27.7%	30.8%	26.7%	30.0%
	High priority	39.8%	40.4%	44.7%	39.0%
	Essential	22.0%	18.9%	24.0%	19.5%
	I don't know/ Refuse to answer	0.8%	1.3%	0.7%	1.2%
Enhance women's participation in energy- boards	Not a priority	0.5%	1.0%	0.7%	0.8%
	Low priority	8.8%	10.6%	4.0%	11.2%
	Medium Priority	29.7%	33.2%	32.7%	31.2%
	High priority	37.4%	34.2%	48.0%	32.7%
	Essential	22.8%	19.4%	14.0%	22.8%
	I don't know/ Refuse to answer	0.8%	1.6%	0.7%	1.3%

Raise public awareness of energy efficiency	Not a priority	1.1%	0.3%	0.7%	0.7%
	Low priority	7.7%	9.1%	8.0%	8.5%
	Medium Priority	30.2%	32.6%	22.0%	33.8%
	High priority	39.8%	35.2%	48.0%	34.8%
	Essential	20.3%	21.8%	20.7%	21.2%
	I don't know/ Refuse to answer	0.8%	1.0%	0.7%	1.0%
Piloting household rooftop solar installations	Not a priority	1.1%	0.3%	0.0%	0.8%
	Low priority	11.8%	9.3%	8.0%	11.2%
	Medium Priority	28.8%	30.3%	24.0%	31.0%
	High priority	36.5%	37.0%	39.3%	36.2%
	Essential	20.9%	21.8%	27.3%	19.8%
	I don't know/ Refuse to answer	0.8%	1.3%	1.3%	1.0%
Enforcing building standards rigorously	Not a priority	0.8%	1.0%	1.3%	0.8%
	Low priority	10.4%	8.0%	4.0%	10.5%
	Medium Priority	25.8%	40.4%	27.3%	34.8%
	High priority	35.7%	31.9%	44.7%	31.0%
	Essential	26.4%	17.9%	22.0%	22.0%
	I don't know/ Refuse to answer	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%	0.8%

Transport Sector

Promoting and using public transport contributes to reducing the use of motorized vehicles and contribute to less emission, fuel consumption, and cleaner air. It is encouraging to see that quite a large share of the interviewed respondents from Suharekë/Suva Reka declared buses and walking (69%) as well as biking (27.5%) as their major modes of transport on daily basis. However, it is worth mentioning that the majority of them (80%), also mentioned 'cars' as being one of the modes of transport they use on daily basis (see figure 8).

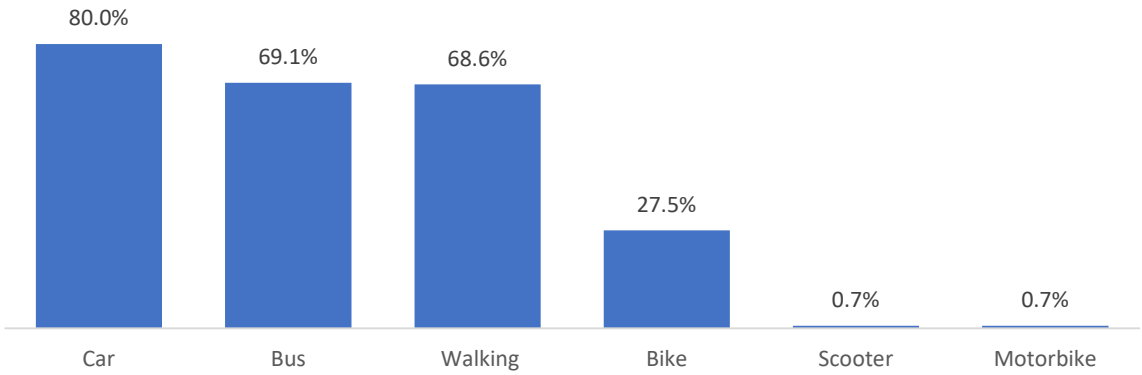

Figure 8. What modes of transport do you use daily?

When the respondents were asked about the reasons for using the selected modes of transport, the majority of them mentioned comfort (74%), safety (70%), speed (58%), and prices (74%) as the major ones. However, for 25% of the respondents, environmental reasons are also considered major ones for using these types of transformations (see figure 9). Given that 'safety' came out to be one of the major reasons for choosing these modes of transport, then we asked the respondents if they feel safe walking alone at night. The findings reveal that 50% of the women from the Municipality of Suharekë/Suvareka feel unsafe walking alone at night. Moreover, 68% of the women declared feeling safe when traveling alone by bus. As compared to the women, the majority of men declared 'always' feeling safe when walking alone at night.

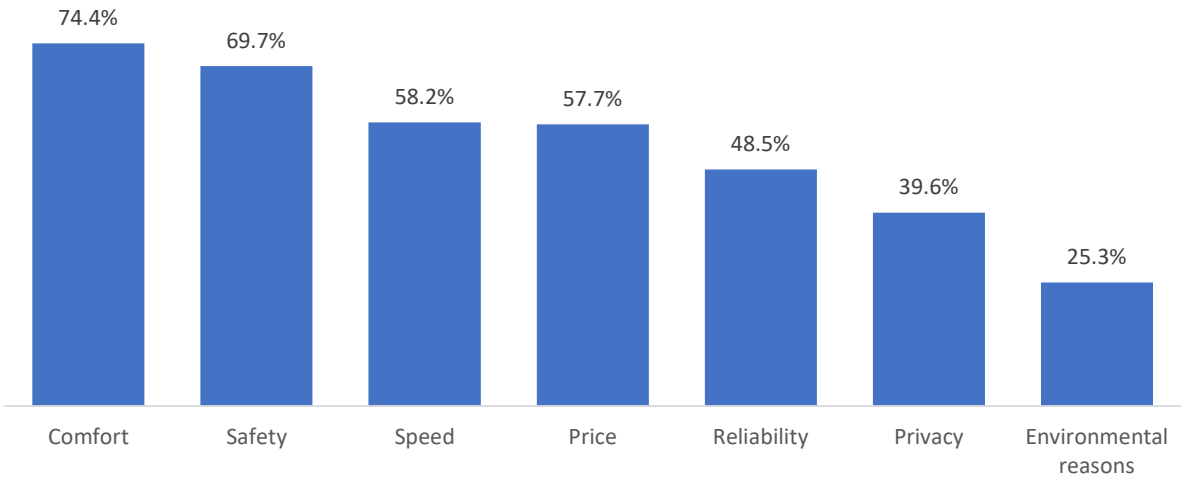

Figure 9. What are the reasons for using selected modes of transport?

The majority of the interviewed respondents in this survey (45%), rated women's employment in the transport sector as 'fair' or 'good' (18%). However, quite a large number of respondents also rated women's employment in the transport sector as being 'poor' or 'very poor' (35%)

(see figure 10). Here as well, no statistically significant differences are noted when the responses of this particular answer are analysed on a gender basis. However, the findings indicate a correlation between higher levels of education and lower levels of satisfaction with women's employment in the transport sector.

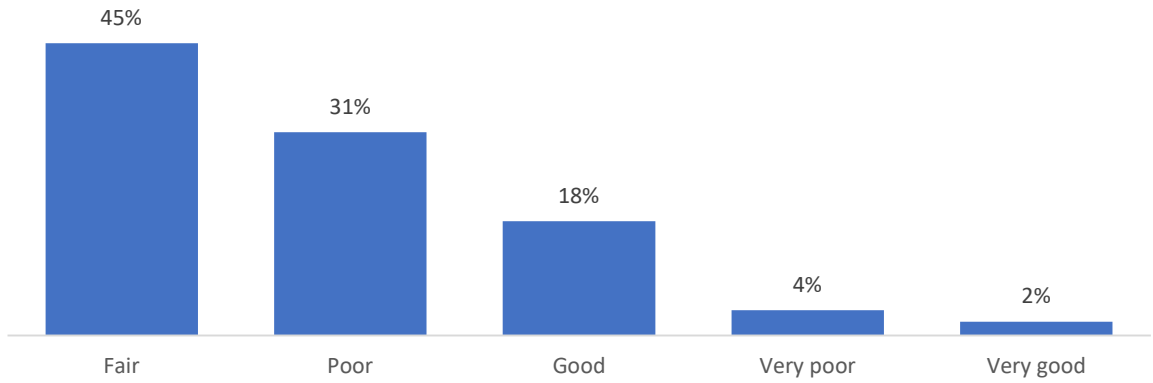

Figure 10. How would you rate women's employment in the transport sector?

According to the interviewed women in this survey, the major obstacle to further women's engagement in the transport sector are gender stereotypes, followed insufficient career promotion opportunities for women, and difficulties in achieving work-family balances in this sector. However, it is worth noting that a number of the interviewed women also noted personal safety and a lack of women's appropriate skills to work in this sector (see figure 11).

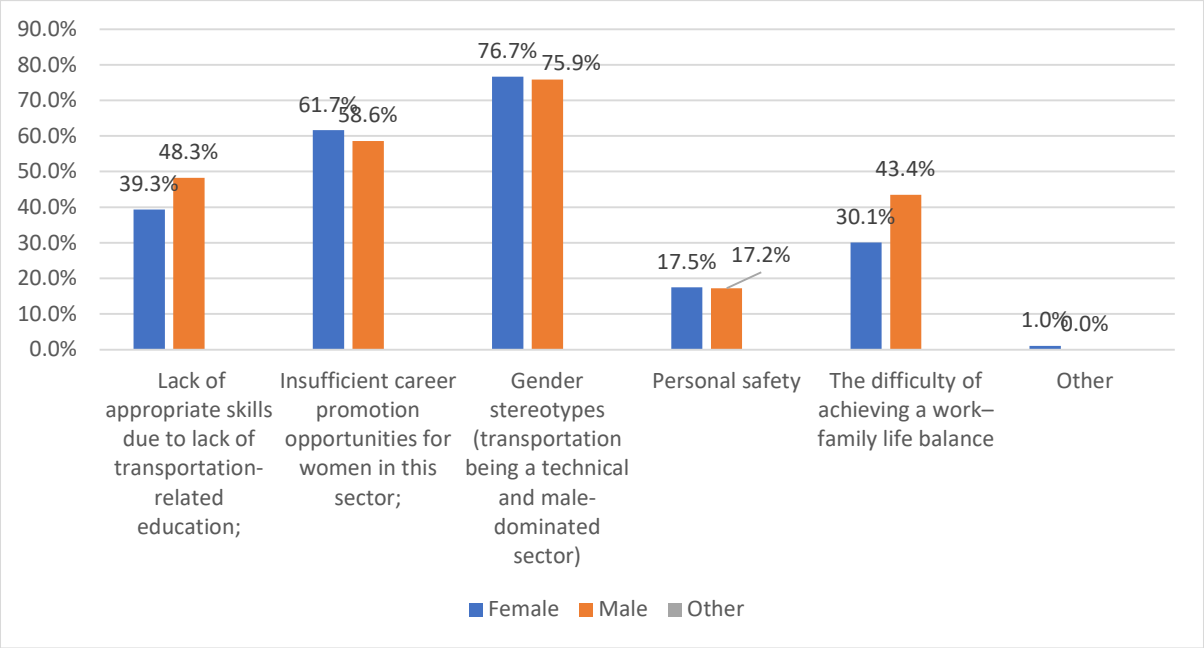

Figure 11. What do you consider as obstacles to women's engagement in the transport sector (gender crosstabulation)?

The survey findings also indicate that developing the cycling paths as well as increasing the investments into improving walking routes should be Municipality's high priorities as far as the transport sector is concerned. Developing a walkability toolkit application, increasing the advocacy activities of low-carbon transport, and promoting women's participation in town transport planning are also considered essential and high priorities to be undertaken by the Municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka. The table below presents the intervention priorities data disaggregated by urban-rural as well as the gender of the respondents (see table 2).

Table 2. Priorities in Transport at the Local Level (disaggregated by gender and by urban-rural)

Intervention	Priority Level	Women	Men	Urban	Rural
Developing a cycling path	Not a priority	2.7%	0.5%	3.3%	1.2%
	Low priority	7.1%	10.1%	4.0%	9.8%
	Medium Priority	14.3%	13.2%	14.7%	13.5%
	High priority	33.0%	40.4%	32.7%	37.8%
	Essential	42.0%	35.8%	45.3%	37.2%
	I do not know/ Refuse to answer	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%
Invest in public transport	Not a priority	0.5%	0.3%	0.0%	0.5%
	Low priority	12.9%	10.9%	9.3%	12.5%
	Medium Priority	22.8%	29.0%	27.3%	25.7%
	High priority	35.7%	38.1%	39.3%	36.3%
	Essential	27.5%	21.8%	24.0%	24.7%
	I do not know/ Refuse to answer	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Developing walkability toolkit application	Not a priority	3.8%	0.0%	2.7%	1.7%
	Low priority	9.1%	8.5%	6.7%	9.3%
	Medium Priority	23.9%	33.7%	23.3%	30.3%
	High priority	34.6%	34.2%	40.7%	32.8%
	Essential	28.0%	22.8%	26.7%	25.0%
	I do not know/ Refuse to answer	0.5%	0.8%	0.0%	0.8%
Increasing investment in improving walking paths	Not a priority	1.1%	0.3%	0.0%	0.8%
	Low priority	13.7%	9.3%	11.3%	11.5%
	Medium Priority	19.8%	19.7%	18.7%	20.0%
	High priority	40.4%	49.5%	50.7%	43.7%
	Essential	24.2%	20.5%	18.7%	23.2%
	I do not know/ Refuse to answer	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%	0.8%

Intervention	Priority Level	Women	Man	Urban	Rural
Promote women's participation in urban transport planning	Not a priority	0.5%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%
	Low priority	6.3%	10.9%	5.3%	9.5%
	Medium Priority	27.5%	28.8%	28.7%	28.0%
	High priority	40.1%	37.3%	42.0%	37.8%
	Essential	25.0%	22.0%	23.3%	23.5%
	I do not know/ Refuse to answer	0.5%	0.3%	0.0%	0.5%
Include more women in transport-based jobs	Not a priority	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%
	Low priority	10.4%	10.1%	6.0%	11.3%
	Medium Priority	26.4%	28.8%	27.3%	27.7%
	High priority	37.4%	37.3%	43.3%	35.8%
	Essential	23.9%	23.3%	23.3%	23.7%
	I do not know/ Refuse to answer	0.5%	0.5%	0.0%	0.7%
Provide preferential treatment to woman-owned businesses in transport procurement	Not a priority	1.1%	0.5%	0.0%	1.0%
	Low priority	8.0%	9.8%	8.0%	9.2%
	Medium Priority	23.4%	27.7%	24.0%	26.0%
	High priority	42.3%	39.9%	45.3%	40.0%
	Essential	24.7%	21.0%	22.7%	22.8%
	I do not know/ Refuse to answer	0.5%	1.0%	0.0%	1.0%
Advocacy for benefits of low carbon transport	Not a priority	0.5%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%
	Low priority	9.1%	9.8%	5.3%	10.5%
	Medium Priority	22.3%	26.2%	18.7%	25.7%
	High priority	40.4%	39.6%	46.7%	38.3%
	Essential	27.2%	22.5%	28.7%	23.8%
	I do not know/ Refuse to answer	0.5%	1.0%	0.0%	1.0%

Public Infrastructure Services Sector

Forty-four percent of the interviewed respondents in this survey consider that the town's infrastructure which is owned or available for use by the public has a moderate contribution to climate change. While another 33% of them declared being 'neutral', in this regard, 19% of respondents believed that public infrastructure can have a minor contribution to climate change (see figure 12). When the responses to this question were analysed from a gender perspective, the findings indicated that the majority of men (80%) considered that the public infrastructure's contribution to climate change is 'neutral' or 'moderate'.

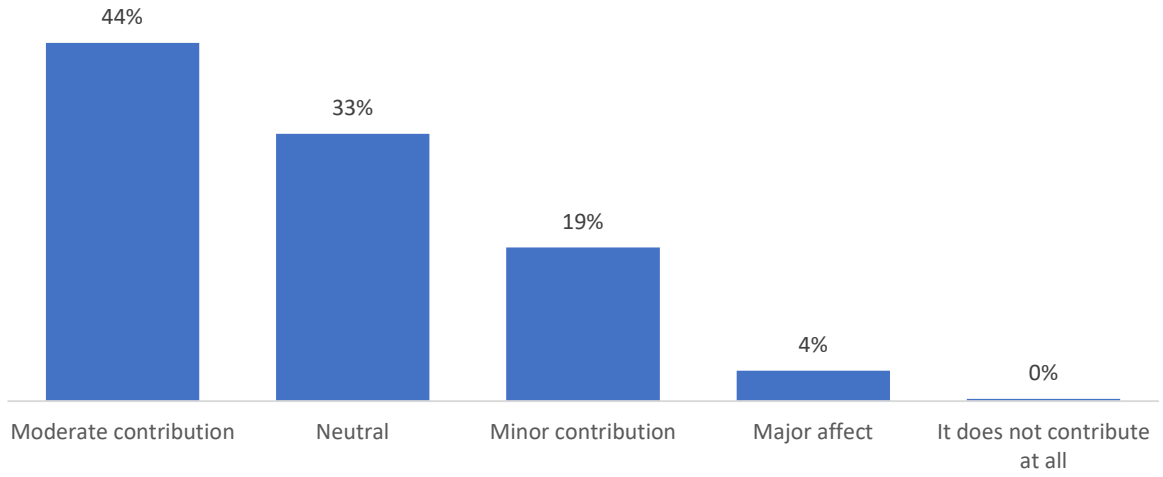

Figure 12. How much does public infrastructure contribute to climate change?

Almost 49% of the respondents of Suharekë/Suva Reka declared being 'moderately satisfied with the public infrastructure services in their municipality. 'Very satisfied' with their municipality's services in public infrastructure were 35% of respondents, whereas only 14% of them declared being 'slightly satisfied' (see figure 13).

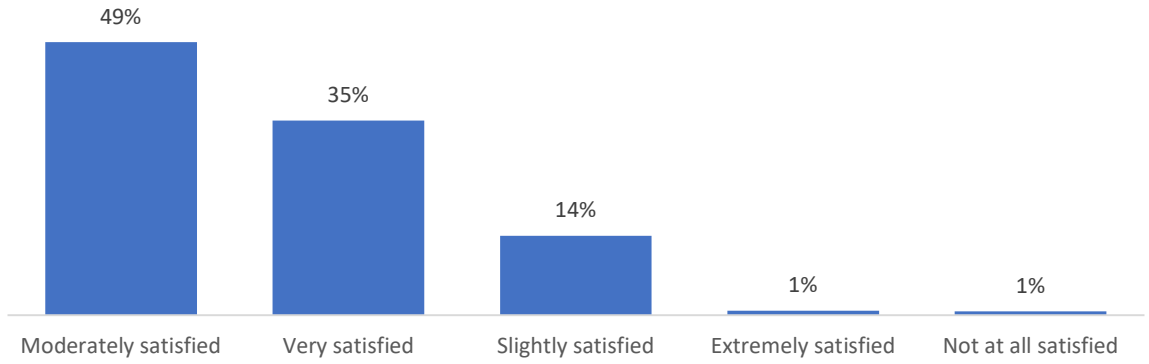

Figure 13. How satisfied are you with the public infrastructure services in your municipality?

Both genders have diverse needs and use infrastructure differently depending on their social roles, level of income, or preferences. Although, as is shown by survey findings, it is generally perceived that men dominate the public infrastructure sector, still an overall majority of the respondents consider women's employment in the public infrastructure services sector as important (see figure 14). When these findings were analysed on a gender basis, it is revealed that about 40% of women – as compared to 50% of men - consider that it is of crucial importance, to have higher employment rates for women in public infrastructure services sector.

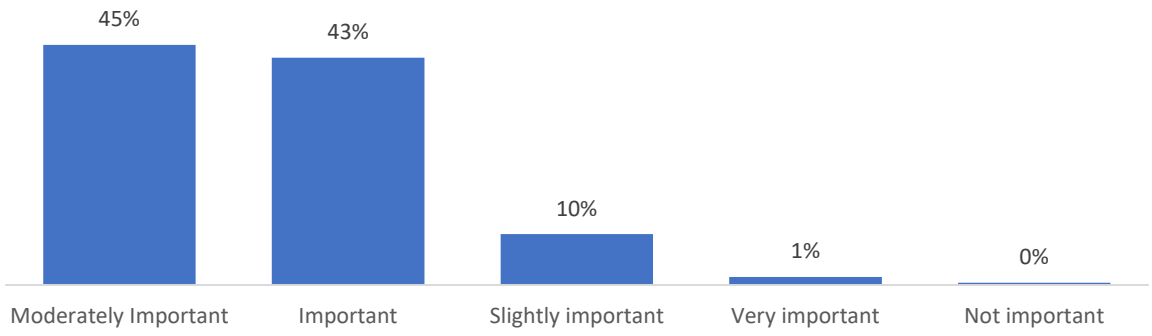

Figure 14. How important is women's employment in the public infrastructure services sector?

When asked about the infrastructure investments, the Municipality should prioritize, according to the respondents of Suharekë/Suva Reka, the improvement of public infrastructure for people with disabilities, the prevention of the development of residential areas near the river, a clean urban drainage network, and improved public lighting in the town. The table below presents the intervention priorities data disaggregated by urban-rural as well as the gender of the respondents (see table 3).

Table 3. Priority in Public Infrastructure at the Local Level (disaggregated by gender and by urban-rural)

Intervention	Priority Level	Women	Men	Urban	Rural
Clean urban drainage network	Not a priority	0.5%	0.3%	0.0%	0.5%
	Low priority	7.1%	9.8%	4.7%	9.5%
	Medium Priority	18.4%	17.1%	15.3%	18.3%
	High priority	38.7%	40.2%	42.7%	38.7%
	Essential	34.6%	32.6%	37.3%	32.7%
	I do not know/ Refuse to answer	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Improving services for waste collection	Not a priority	0.5%	0.8%	0.0%	0.8%
	Low priority	12.4%	12.2%	11.3%	12.5%
	Medium Priority	19.5%	23.3%	24.0%	20.8%
	High priority	42.9%	37.3%	40.0%	40.0%
	Essential	24.2%	26.4%	24.7%	25.5%
	I do not know/ Refuse to answer	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Considering Biodiversity	Not a priority	0.8%	0.3%	0.0%	0.7%
	Low priority	6.6%	9.6%	4.7%	9.0%
	Medium Priority	25.0%	21.2%	20.0%	23.8%

protection in urban planning	High priority	39.8%	45.6%	51.3%	40.7%
	Essential	27.2%	22.3%	24.0%	24.8%
	I do not know/ Refuse to answer	0.5%	1.0%	0.0%	1.0%
Prevent the development of residential areas near the river	Not a priority	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%	0.3%
	Low priority	9.9%	9.1%	7.3%	10.0%
	Medium Priority	19.0%	18.9%	17.3%	19.3%
	High priority	38.5%	46.4%	45.3%	41.8%
	Essential	31.3%	24.6%	30.0%	27.3%
	I do not know/ Refuse to answer	1.1%	0.8%	0.0%	1.2%
Improve public infrastructure for people with disabilities	Not a priority	0.5%	0.3%	0.0%	0.5%
	Low priority	6.9%	10.6%	5.3%	9.7%
	Medium Priority	22.0%	20.2%	18.0%	21.8%
	High priority	43.1%	45.6%	48.7%	43.3%
	Essential	26.9%	22.0%	27.3%	23.7%
	I do not know/ Refuse to answer	0.5%	1.3%	0.7%	1.0%
Provide organized transport to public institutions for older adults	Not a priority	1.4%	0.3%	0.0%	1.0%
	Low priority	8.2%	8.8%	6.7%	9.0%
	Medium Priority	22.0%	21.0%	17.3%	22.5%
	High priority	41.8%	42.5%	51.3%	39.8%
	Essential	26.1%	26.7%	24.0%	27.0%
	I do not know/ Refuse to answer	0.5%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%
Development of an application/system for voluntary reporting of illegal waste dumpsites	Not a priority	1.4%	0.8%	2.7%	0.7%
	Low priority	10.7%	7.5%	4.7%	10.2%
	Medium Priority	23.6%	23.3%	21.3%	24.0%
	High priority	38.7%	45.3%	46.7%	41.0%
	Essential	25.0%	22.3%	24.7%	23.3%
	I do not know/ Refuse to answer	0.5%	0.8%	0.0%	0.8%
Improve public lighting in the town	Not a priority	1.4%	0.5%	0.0%	1.2%
	Low priority	8.5%	9.1%	10.0%	8.5%
	Medium Priority	23.1%	21.5%	18.7%	23.2%
	High priority	37.9%	47.2%	49.3%	41.0%
	Essential	28.6%	21.2%	22.0%	25.5%
	I do not know/ Refuse to answer	0.5%	0.5%	0.0%	0.7%
Uses of renewable energy for streetlights	Not a priority	1.4%	0.0%	0.7%	0.7%
	Low priority	9.1%	7.8%	4.0%	9.5%
	Medium Priority	25.8%	27.2%	22.7%	27.5%

	High priority	41.2%	42.2%	50.7%	39.5%
	Essential	21.7%	21.8%	21.3%	21.8%
	I do not know/ Refuse to answer	0.8%	1.0%	0.7%	1.0%
Improving management of the environment at the local level	Not a priority	1.4%	0.5%	0.0%	1.2%
	Low priority	10.4%	7.8%	6.0%	9.8%
	Medium Priority	28.3%	25.6%	22.7%	28.0%
	High priority	36.3%	40.9%	47.3%	36.5%
	Essential	22.8%	24.6%	24.0%	23.7%
	I do not know/ Refuse to answer	0.8%	0.5%	0.0%	0.8%

Solid waste management

The survey respondents were asked whether they would list solid waste management as one of the municipality's top three main problems, and the majority of them (69%) reported 'no' (see figure 15). Of those that listed solid waste as their municipality's top three problems, it is noted that the majority of them hold master's or bachelor's degrees. When the results of this question are analysed based on gender, the data indicates that the majority of men (80%) do not rate waste management as one of their municipality's top three problems.

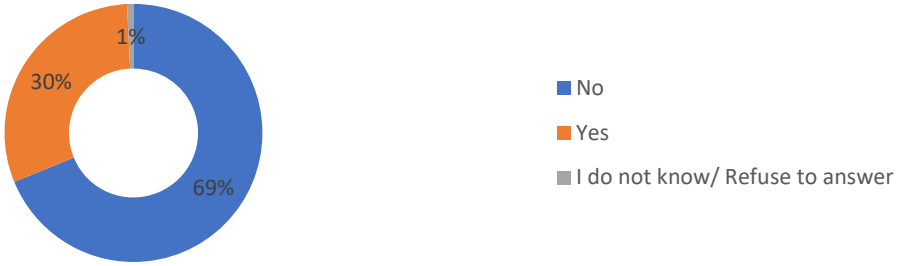

Figure 15. Would you list solid waste management as one of your municipality's top three main problems?

The respondents were also asked about their awareness related to the recycling opportunities in their municipality. The majority of them (73%) were not informed about such activities (see figure 16). The disaggregated data based on the employment status of the women who declared being aware of the recycling opportunities in their municipality shows that the majority of them were employed either in the public or private sector(s). Whereas when it comes to the 23% of men who declared being aware of the recycling opportunities in their municipality, the findings reveal that the majority of them are employed in the public sector.

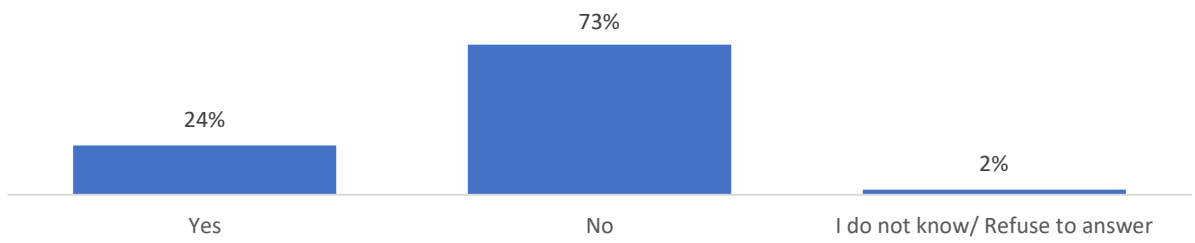

Figure 16. Are you aware of any recycling points in your municipality?

Women's participation in the waste management sector jobs is minor. When the respondents were asked, what they consider to be women's obstacles to participating in the waste management sector, the majority of them emphasized gender stereotypes and insufficient career promotion opportunities within this sector. However, a number of respondents also considered the lack of appropriate skills and the difficulty of achieving a work-life balance as obstacles for women to participate in this sector (see figure 17).

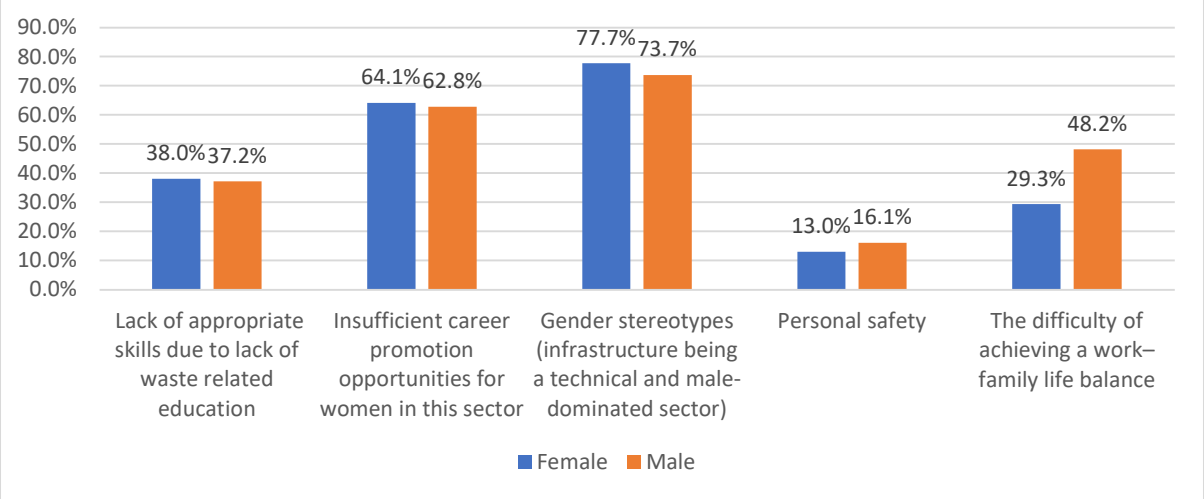

Figure 17. What do you consider obstacles to women's participation in the waste management sector jobs (gender crosstabulation)

The respondents consider that their municipality's priorities in the solid waste management sector should be launching of campaigns for promoting recycling, enduring the procuring of modern equipment to collect waste, and increase of waste collection points. When responses to this question are analysed on a gender basis, for the majority of listed priorities, no significant differences in the opinions of women and men were noticed.

The table below presents the intervention priorities data disaggregated by urban and rural as well as the gender of the respondents (see table 4).

Table 4. Priorities in Solid Waste Management at the Local Level (disaggregated by gender and urban-rural)

Intervention	Priority Level	Women	Men	Urban	Rural
Increase waste collection points	Not a priority	0.5%	0.3%	0.0%	0.7%
	Low priority	6.0%	11.1%	3.3%	9.0%
	Medium Priority	18.4%	17.6%	12.0%	22.7%
	High priority	40.4%	34.7%	38.0%	39.7%
	Essential	34.1%	35.8%	46.7%	27.5%
	I do not know/ Refuse to answer	0.5%	0.5%	0.0%	0.5%
Online schedule information for picking up trash	Not a priority	1.9%	0.3%	0.0%	0.3%
	Low priority	15.4%	12.4%	6.7%	13.5%
	Medium Priority	23.6%	33.9%	28.7%	21.8%
	High priority	37.4%	34.5%	31.3%	38.2%
	Essential	21.2%	18.1%	33.3%	25.7%
	I do not know/ Refuse to answer	0.5%	0.8%	0.0%	0.5%
Ensure the procurement of modern equipment to collect waste	Not a priority	0.5%	0.5%	0.0%	0.8%
	Low priority	6.9%	10.1%	8.0%	9.8%
	Medium Priority	26.1%	26.4%	22.7%	29.2%
	High priority	45.9%	39.9%	36.7%	30.7%
	Essential	20.1%	22.5%	32.7%	28.7%
	I do not know/ Refuse to answer	0.5%	0.5%	0.0%	0.8%
Prevent the development of residential areas near the river	Not a priority	1.9%	0.5%	2.7%	2.8%
	Low priority	9.9%	8.8%	8.7%	9.7%
	Medium Priority	22.3%	23.1%	18.0%	22.5%
	High priority	40.7%	47.7%	34.0%	36.0%
	Essential	24.7%	18.7%	36.0%	28.2%
	I do not know/ Refuse to answer	0.5%	1.3%	0.7%	0.8%
Employ women in solid waste collection	Not a priority	0.8%	1.3%	0.7%	0.8%
	Low priority	8.8%	7.5%	6.0%	12.8%
	Medium Priority	23.4%	28.8%	24.0%	24.3%
	High priority	46.4%	41.2%	36.7%	34.7%
	Essential	20.1%	19.7%	32.7%	26.7%
	I do not know/ Refuse to answer	0.5%	1.6%	0.0%	0.7%
Integrate the informal waste	Not a priority	0.3%	0.5%	0.0%	1.0%
	Low priority	9.6%	8.5%	6.7%	9.0%

pickers into the existing waste management system	Medium Priority	17.6%	19.4%	17.3%	22.5%
	High priority	44.8%	47.4%	51.3%	39.8%
	Essential	27.2%	22.5%	24.0%	27.0%
	I do not know/ Refuse to answer	0.5%	1.6%	0.7%	0.7%
Keeping waste out of the landfill	Not a priority	0.5%	0.3%	2.7%	0.7%
	Low priority	10.4%	8.3%	4.7%	10.2%
	Medium Priority	20.1%	22.5%	21.3%	24.0%
	High priority	42.3%	44.0%	46.7%	41.0%
	Essential	25.8%	24.4%	24.7%	23.3%
	I do not know/ Refuse to answer	0.8%	0.5%	0.0%	0.8%
Awareness raising for waste prevention	Not a priority	0.5%	0.3%	0.0%	1.2%
	Low priority	8.0%	9.1%	10.0%	8.5%
	Medium Priority	21.7%	23.3%	18.7%	23.2%
	High priority	45.1%	45.1%	49.3%	41.0%
	Essential	23.9%	21.8%	22.0%	25.5%
	I do not know/ Refuse to answer	0.8%	0.5%	0.0%	0.7%
Launching campaigns promoting recycling	Not a priority	1.1%	0.3%	0.7%	0.7%
	Low priority	9.3%	8.8%	4.0%	9.5%
	Medium Priority	17.9%	23.3%	22.7%	27.5%
	High priority	45.9%	43.0%	50.7%	39.5%
	Essential	25.3%	24.4%	21.3%	21.8%
	I do not know/ Refuse to answer	0.5%	0.3%	0.7%	1.0%
Imposing disincentives (paying) for certain types of waste such as plastic bags used at supermarkets.	Not a priority	0.8%	0.8%	0.0%	1.2%
	Low priority	10.2%	5.7%	6.0%	9.8%
	Medium Priority	25.0%	29.8%	22.7%	28.0%
	High priority	38.7%	37.6%	47.3%	36.5%
	Essential	24.7%	25.1%	24.0%	23.7%
	I do not know/ Refuse to answer	0.5%	1.0%	0.0%	0.8%

Rural Development Sector

The majority of respondents (59%), think that agriculture contributes to climate change. Significant differences were not noticed when responses to this question were analysed on an age basis. The findings also reveal no differences in terms of gender either.

Figure 18. Do you think that agriculture contributes to climate change?

The respondents were also asked whether they believe that climate change affects the price stability of the food, and a majority of them (77%) think that it does (see figure 19). When the responses to this question were analysed on a gender basis, the findings reveal that the majority of the men (66%) who consider that climate change affects the price stability of food, are only employed from time to time (86%).

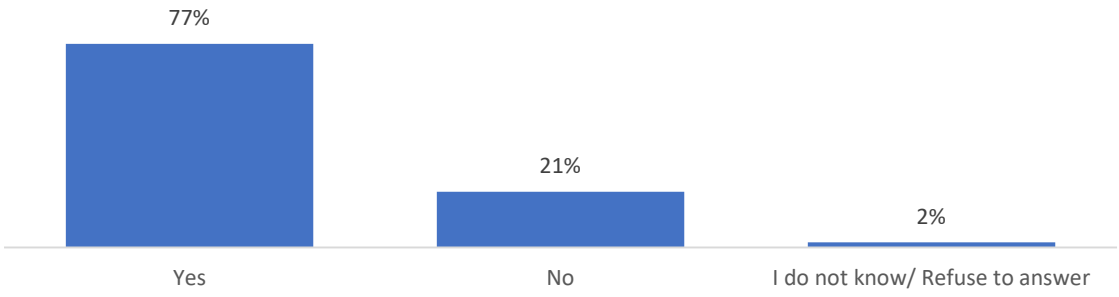

Figure 19. Do you believe that climate change affects the price stability of food?

Respondents of the Municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka were also asked how concerned they were regarding deforestation. The findings indicate that majority of them are somewhat and/or moderately concerned (see figure 20). When the answers to this particular question were analysed on a gender basis, the findings revealed no significant differences between women's and men's concerns regarding deforestation.

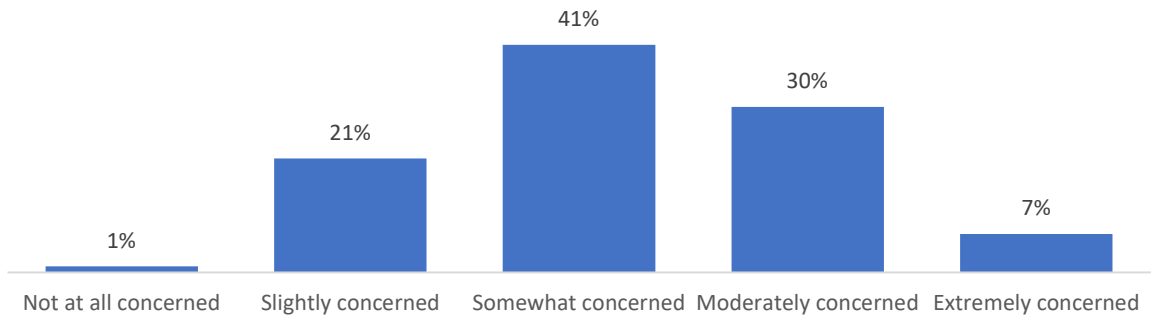

Figure 20. How concerned are you regarding deforestation?

Climate-smart agriculture is an approach that helps guide actions to transform agri-food systems towards green and climate-resilient practices. When the respondents of this survey were asked whether they heard about climate-smart agriculture, the majority of them responded 'no' (55%). However, quite a large number of the respondents – 40% - also declared having heard about this 'concept' (see figure 21). Significant differences wee not noticed when the responses of this particular question were analysed on a gender basis.

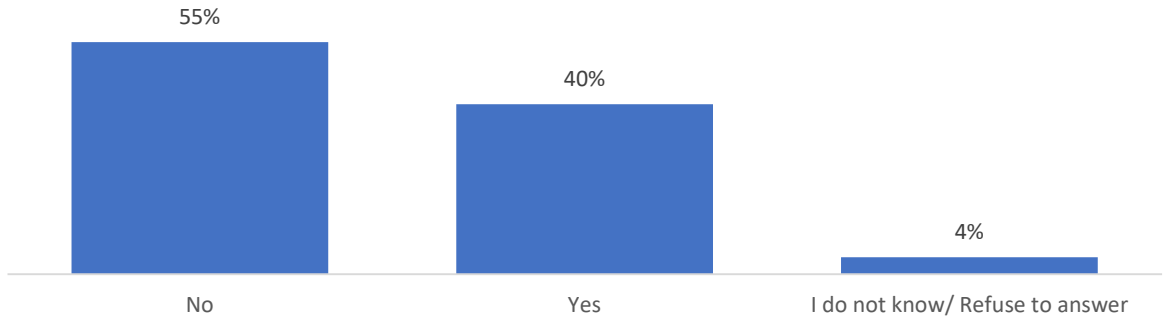

Figure 21. Have you heard of climate-smart agriculture?

Women are of vital importance to rural economies. In many farming communities, women are the main custodians of knowledge on crop varieties. The majority of respondents consider women's employment in the rural development sector as 'important'. However, gender stereotypes and insufficient career promotion opportunities for women in this sector, are also considered obstacles to women's participation in the rural development sector jobs (see figure 22).

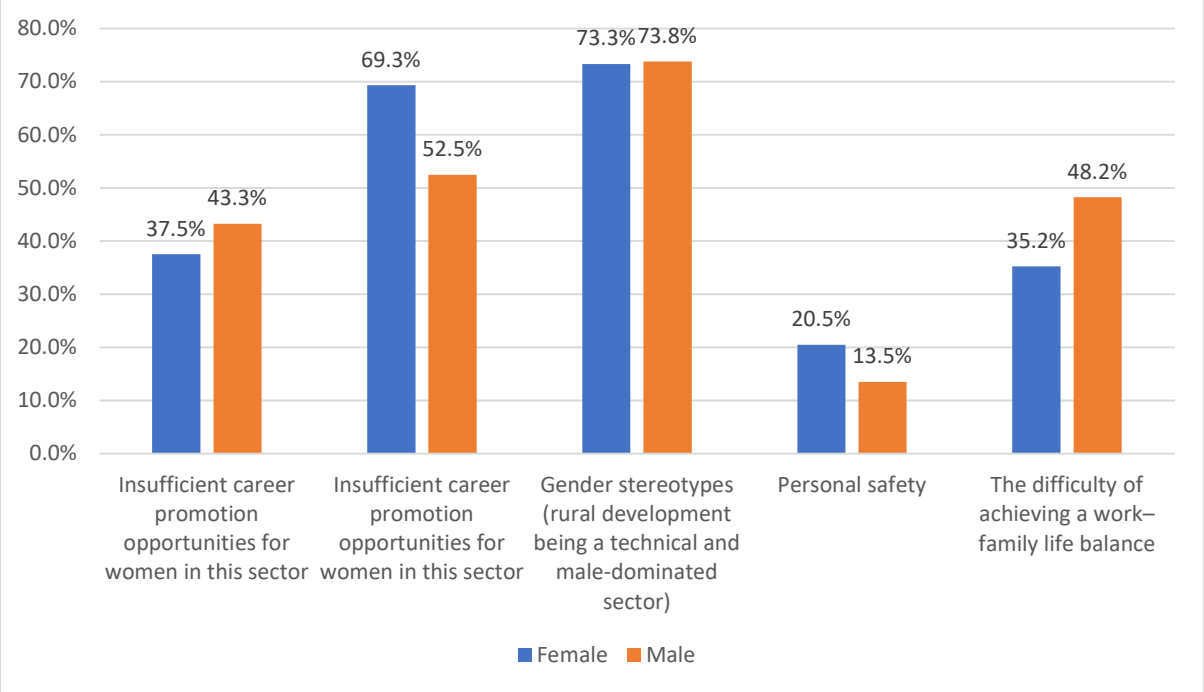

Figure 22: What do you consider obstacles to women's participation in the rural development sector jobs?

The application of water-saving cultivation systems, avoiding deforestation from agriculture, developing early climate warning systems, etc. are rated as very essential priorities which the Municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka should prioritize and undertake. When the responses to these questions were analysed based on the age group of the respondents, it was noticed that the younger generations also consider that the Municipality's high priority for the rural development sector should be to subsidize farmers to access the climate agricultural projects, enhance climate risk planning in the rural development sector, and inclusion of women in decision-making regarding rural development. The most noticeable gender differences are seen in the needed intervention for the application of water-saving cultivation systems, which was considered as of 'low priority' by 10% of women and 19% of men. Whereas the interventions for raising public awareness about food and waste is marked as of 'essential' priority by the majority of women (18%), as compared to only 11% of men (see table 5). The table below also presents the intervention priorities data disaggregated by urban and rural as well as the gender of the respondents.

Table 5. Table of Priorities in Rural Development in Local Level (disaggregated by gender and urban-rural)

Intervention	Priority Level	Women	Men	Urban	Rural
	Not a priority	0.5%	0.5%	0.0%	0.7%

The application of water-saving cultivation systems	Low priority	10.2%	18.7%	7.3%	16.3%
	Medium Priority	36.5%	28.8%	30.0%	33.2%
	High priority	28.8%	32.9%	34.0%	30.2%
	Essential	23.9%	19.2%	28.7%	19.7%
Raise public awareness about food loss and waste	Not a priority	0.5%	0.5%	0.0%	0.7%
	Low priority	17.3%	19.4%	16.7%	18.8%
	Medium Priority	33.5%	33.9%	38.0%	32.7%
	High priority	30.2%	35.0%	27.3%	34.0%
	Essential	18.4%	11.1%	18.0%	13.8%
Avoid deforestation from agriculture	Not a priority	3.3%	1.3%	2.0%	2.3%
	Low priority	15.1%	13.5%	10.7%	15.2%
	Medium Priority	37.1%	39.6%	38.7%	38.3%
	High priority	26.4%	31.3%	31.3%	28.3%
	Essential	18.1%	14.2%	17.3%	15.8%
Develop Early climate warning systems	Not a priority	1.1%	1.0%	0.7%	1.2%
	Low priority	12.9%	16.1%	11.3%	15.3%
	Medium Priority	36.5%	35.8%	37.3%	35.8%
	High priority	34.1%	33.4%	34.0%	33.7%
	Essential	15.4%	13.7%	16.7%	14.0%
Investing in drought-tolerant seeds	Not a priority	1.1%	0.3%	0.0%	0.8%
	Low priority	15.4%	13.5%	13.3%	14.7%
	Medium Priority	38.2%	40.7%	37.3%	40.0%
	High priority	28.0%	32.6%	34.0%	29.5%
	Essential	17.3%	13.0%	15.3%	15.0%
Invest in improving soil health	Not a priority	1.1%	1.0%	0.7%	1.2%
	Low priority	15.4%	18.1%	13.3%	17.7%
	Medium Priority	36.3%	37.0%	43.3%	35.0%
	High priority	31.9%	30.8%	24.7%	33.0%
	Essential	15.4%	13.0%	18.0%	13.2%
Enhance climate risk-informed policy planning in the rural development sector	Not a priority	1.1%	0.5%	0.0%	1.0%
	Low priority	17.0%	17.1%	14.0%	17.8%
	Medium Priority	40.1%	36.3%	34.7%	39.0%
	High priority	26.9%	31.3%	36.7%	27.3%
	Essential	14.8%	14.8%	14.7%	14.8%
Subsidize farmers to access for climate resilient agriculture products	Not a priority	0.8%	0.8%	0.0%	1.0%
	Low priority	14.6%	16.6%	12.7%	16.3%
	Medium Priority	29.7%	36.5%	32.0%	33.5%

	High priority	36.0%	31.3%	34.0%	33.5%
	Essential	19.0%	14.8%	21.3%	15.7%
Include women in decision-making regarding rural development	Not a priority	1.1%	0.3%	0.0%	0.8%
	Low priority	16.2%	15.5%	12.0%	16.8%
	Medium Priority	38.7%	39.1%	44.0%	37.7%
	High priority	29.7%	32.6%	30.7%	31.3%
	Essential	14.3%	12.4%	13.3%	13.3%

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Findings

FGD with Women in Suharekë/Suva Reka

The women in Suharekë/Suva Reka were open to answering the questions and discussed without hesitation related to the topic. In general, the participants had a basic knowledge of climate change. At the end of the interview, several important points were highlighted regarding what should be prioritized in the future to help women in Suharekë/Suva Reka. Twelve Albanian women from Suharekë/Suva Reka municipality participated in this FGD. When asked about the 'meaning of climate change' they related to climate change, with the fact that the winter is not starting nor lasting as it used to (October – March), no snow and until June there are no 'proper springs'. One of them (a beekeeper) mentioned climate change impacted losses in the number of bees, dry lands, and decreases in the cultivation of strawberries, tomatoes, peppers, etc.

The respondents noted that the factors that contribute to climate change include deforestation, waste, transport, air pollution, illegal or uncontrolled landfills, etc. The findings indicate that most of the information on this topic is from internet, social media, television, etc. This can also be considered an indicator that the responsible institutions (such as schools, institutional agencies, public television, etc.) do not necessarily inform the respondents about climate change, its effects, etc. Respondents also noted that it would be useful if the agencies or municipalities organize activities such as awareness campaigns on environmental issues, etc. The respondents consider youth as one of the most vulnerable categories to climate change, including those with special needs and women. What makes these categories more vulnerable are also financial or economic reasons. Youth, women, and people with disabilities usually have no or fewer financial reserves. They also have more difficulties in accessing other resources, due to being considered 'not powerful enough to face many challenges they might encounter as a result of climate change'. To combat climate change, in 2020, the municipality

took the initiative to support the farmers with greenhouse farm materials (up to 600 euros per household), seeds subsidies, etc. Additionally, a municipal commission was established for the evaluation of the damages, etc. The respondents noted that the increases in energy prices impacted their behaviour when it comes to consumption (lights, better usage of the washing machine, thoughts of changing to solar heating plates, etc.). The decisions about energy consumption or heating were taken together as a family. They are mainly impacted by the family's budget. Participants also declared that the workmen who installed the heating informed them about the renewable energy alternatives (solar panels) to heating systems but 'it was expensive'. Others also mentioned being informed from social media about the solar system, hydro-plant, etc. However, they consider that their obstacles as women in seeking careers in the energy sector come due to potential prejudices, mentality, etc. But, all of the respondents consider that woman's representation in the decision-making in the energy sector is of crucial importance. That is why this should be one of the priorities of Kosovo institutions, followed by organizing training on how to access and approach the energy sector, use of different technologies, etc.

Due to the lack of other forms of transport, most of the women participants in the FG declared using cars for completion of their daily activities. Although they are aware of the disadvantages of using this type of transport (air pollution, gasoline, other financial expenses, etc.) they said that it is impossible to use other forms of transport – such as bikes - for longer distances. It was also mentioned that women are adequately represented in the workforce in the transport sector. However, further improvements in the transport sector should be one of the priorities of the Municipality. When it comes to public infrastructure, women consider that it also includes the creation of a market that they do not have, and a level of security so they can sell products. They also encountered difficulties sometimes with other services from public institutions (such as KEDS, maintenance of sewage system, water flooding inside the town, etc.). No one comes to fix them although they collect the payment regularly. In the city zone, waste is collected twice a week. More problems are present in the apartment zones, the main streets, etc. Women are not represented in the waste collection sector, however, the participants declared having no information on whether they were included in the decision-making processes in this sector. The central and local institutions should raise the awareness of respondents related to recycling, waste differentiation, etc.

The respondents believe that rural development is impacted by climate change. The land has been infected; given that the water circulates through the earth and pollution passes through the circulation of water. Huge demand for food, meat, and large animal slaughters requires

the usage of technology to help. This spends a lot of electricity, and fuel which cause environmental pollution. However, considering Kosovo, larger investments should be oriented toward agriculture and rural development, access to tools, more opportunities to help small women-owned businesses to take loans, etc.

FGD with Men in the municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka

This focus group was held with twelve Albanian men participants over the age of 25. The participants were willing to answer and were open to conversation. Their answers were detailed and unhesitant, every participant gave opinions on most of the questions. Most of the participants were not well informed about climate change and they did not sound that liberal towards the inclusion of women in the discussed sectors. The participants declared that – according to their pieces of information from reading books on this topic - climate change comes as a result of global warming, while global warming comes as a result of the release of various gases coming from traffic and industries. The consequences of climate change are melting glaciers and strong winds. The respondents also noted being concerned with the impacts of climate change in their area. Burning forests are very dangerous, and society's awareness of saving and preventing the damage to the forests must be increased.

The negative impacts of climate change are noticeable in the agricultural sector. There is less production in comparison to previous years, and farmers are already losing (production quantity, and financial benefits). The respondents also noted believing that some social groups are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change than others. For example, high temperatures affect the elderly more. People with chronic diseases such as asthma have respiratory problems if the air humidity drops to 40%. Then, when the forests are burned many microorganisms are released. Forests clean and freshen the air, reduce noise pollution, absorb dust, and have a large potential for water retention. The respondents also believe that – due to the lack of green spaces - those living in urban areas are more vulnerable than those living in rural areas.

The respondents were also asked if their behaviour changed after the recent energy crisis. The majority of them noted that it has changed and that people's self-awareness has begun. For example, respondents said people turn off lights, given that they see the difference in the bill when they save energy. Most of the respondents declared they use wood for heating during the winter. And – according to them – the decisions in the house about the consumption of heating or energy are taken by those who deal with that particular segment. The respondents think that women are not sufficiently involved in the energy sector but that it is

also due to the fact the Faculty of electronics is mainly attended by men. Nevertheless, women work in the administration of Kosovo Electricity Distribution and Services (KEDS). However, women' s further involvement in this sector is important because they should also learn how to save electricity. The respondents also considered that the municipality should conduct a feasibility study and look at the areas where solar panels can be placed because the solar radiation in Kosovo is very high. When it comes to transport, the majority of participants reported using cars although they are aware that the pollution caused by cars burning gasoline and diesel fuel creates pollutants that harm health and contain greenhouse gases that cause climate change. While the majority of respondents declared of feeling safe in general, some of them also noted the cases when feeling unsafe due to stray dogs. When it comes to women's presence in the transport sector, the majority of participants think that representation is not sufficient. All participants agree that the waste management in the Municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka is managed properly. The municipality has designated a special place where the waste should be thrown, but it is being misused. The municipal authorities should implement laws to punish irregularities and increase the number of the inspectors. The respondents also noted that the municipality subsidized agricultural projects, such as greenhouse(s) farming.

FGD with Youth (men and women) in Suharekë/Suva Reka

In this FGD, participated eight respondents, seven of them being women, and one man, all from Suharekë/Suva Reka and of Albanian ethnicity. The focus group intended to assess the participants' awareness on climate change. The findings indicate that all participants affirmed that they have heard of climate change. Their major source of information is declared of being social networks. However, although they declared that due to climate change the glaciers may melt and there may be fires, the majority of them declared not to know anything specific or deeper about this topic, hence they 'are not experts in this field'. The respondents also mentioned that – according to their parents - winters used to be colder and longer in the past, while nowadays summers are starting earlier, and it gets hot very early on. The youth also raised their concerns about the elderly and people with disabilities who – according to them - will have a harder time coping with climate change.

The youth highlighted that Suharekë/Suva Reka is known as a green town and now there are places to throw garbage everywhere, while previously, there were cases when respondents burned garbage, and this caused air pollution. With the imposition of fines, the behaviour of respondents has changed a lot. Even the placement of waste bins and the planting of trees

have had a positive effect on the improvement of the environment in Suharekë/Suva Reka. Nowadays youth can get involved in cleaning and waste collection activities, civil society can also take steps to raise awareness among young people about climate change and environmental protection. When it comes to the energy sector, the participants declared having difficulties changing their behaviour. However, after the increases in energy prices, some of the respondents declared that they pay attention to turning off the lights in the empty rooms and trying to use energy during the off-peak electricity rates usually at night because it costs cheaper.

The method of heating is imposed depending on where they live (in the town or the countryside) as well as their economic conditions. Thus, the respondents declared that 'it is not necessarily that someone from the family can decide', because it is imposed. However, the youth also noted that, if it is up to anyone to decide, then it is their parents. Those who live in the town and are based in residential buildings or individual houses with no yard are somehow forced to heat with electricity, while houses located in rural areas may also be heated with wood or coal. This has a bad impact because burning coal pollutes the air a lot, and on the other hand, the cutting of trees results in deforestation. There are no followed rules about which trees should be cut or whether new trees should be planted. The respondents declared that they heard about solar energy, and it was also mentioned that some businesses in Suharekë/Suva Reka installed solar panels on their roofs. This is very well since it reduces the need to use electricity produced by thermal power plants. Although they all agreed about its importance, none of the respondents followed the education or careers in fields related to the energy sector. According to them, young people always choose what they find easier. However, the 'scholarship opportunities and adjusted conditions' to study in this sector might increase awareness.

When asked what the local government priorities should be regarding the energy sector, it was mentioned that they should help the respondents find solutions for the heating systems, offer subsidies for energy efficiency measures, or the replacement of electric heating boilers with the most efficient heating equipment. The youth is aware of the fact that the use of vehicles causes air pollution. Thus, they use the car only when they have to. Some of them also mentioned walking frequently given that their municipality is quite small. Suharekë/Suva Reka Municipality does not have services of the bus public urban transport, but respondents mention that they sometimes use bus mode of travel to the surrounding villages. For all respondents' studies or careers in the transport sector are not seen as relevant, especially for women. This shows very limited awareness of the opportunities in the transport sector.

The 'scholarship opportunities and adjusted conditions (higher salaries, career opportunities and better working conditions, such as work-life balance)' to study transport might increase awareness. The youth considers that the local government must prioritize bike paths, to make easy biking. When the participants were asked about the impact of public infrastructure on climate change, participants indicated that they did not know about this issue. After further encouragement from the interviewer, one of the participants noted that planting trees and placing additional trash bins around the town would be beneficial to the environment. The participants also declared that they would study in an area related to the public infrastructure sector if there is a provision of incentives either with a scholarship or some similar form. According to them, digitalization should become the municipality's priority and this way avoid long waiting lines and a potential corruption of the employees for the required municipal services. Nepotism is also perceived as a big problem in the municipality, such as in employment, and the provision of services.

When it comes to solid waste management, the youth considers that the garbage collection system in the municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka is good. Even though there is no fixed schedule for garbage collection, usually, it is collected on time and is not piled up. The only reported disadvantage is that there is no waste separation. Indeed, there is a collection point for cars and plastics which – according to the participants – causes a lot of environmental pollution, and especially releases a lot of CO2s. The municipality – according to the youngsters – should now focus on waste separation and building some sort of recycling center. According to the participants, rural development contributes and climate change. At the municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka, people do agro activities that have an impact on climate change. One of the participants noted that even the various land animal waste-based fertilizers affect the release of methane and CO2. The participant declared that farmers try to make animal waste compost for crops so that we can both use those wastes and reduce waste. Also, it was mentioned the improvement of the irrigation system in farming, and its is noticeable impact on saving water. Otherwise, after the hail damages in farms, the municipal authorities have compensated farmers for the suffered damage. But participants declare that there have been cases where through nepotism some individuals have benefited from the municipality even though they did not suffer any damage. This was highlighted as being very disturbing.

Participants have information on studied of agriculture or agro-economics because they were involved in that activity from a young age and were interested in advancing in that direction. More people choose this career also because of family tradition and living in rural areas. Apart from the sectors mentioned earlier rural development is relevant in our municipality and some

young people have ambitions to deal in this field. Most of those engaged in agriculture have older equipment and replacing this equipment would help them a lot in their work. Agricultural subsidies are necessary but there must also be control, there must be inspectors so that subsidies are provided fairly for everyone and not misused. The municipality should focus on supporting rural development, subsidizing grants for agriculture and for purchase of modern equipment as there are interested parties in this sector. Furthermore, the municipal authorities should work to fight nepotism, especially in cases of subsidy and compensation, by improving the procedures and inspecting in case of any irregularities.

FGD with People with Disabilities in Suharekë/Suva Reka

This FG is held with eleven (11) participants, eight (8) of whom were women and three (3) men, all from Suharekë/Suva Reka and of Albanian ethnicity. The participants were willing to answer and were open to conversation. They did not hesitate to answer any of the questions. Their answers were detailed and very informative, showing the problems and challenges that they as persons with disabilities face in the Municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka. In addition, this group was also very informed about climate change and its impacts.

FG participants declared that about global warming they initially heard from the media and internet, but later also from university studies. They were all concerned about this issue, and also noted that certain groups – such as people with disabilities – are much more vulnerable to climate change. As a concrete example, they mention cases of floods or of fires, that might increase in frequency due to climate change, and how it is different to evacuate when you are disabled. When asked if they believe that the medical personnel is trained on the impacts of climate change on the health of individuals with disabilities, they noted that it would be good if the health care providers do not give only general warnings, but have special ones as well, focusing on the specific needs of the people with disabilities. Last year there was a storm and an organization that deals with people with disabilities found out that everyone left the building except three people with disabilities. Two days after the storm, three people were still in the buildings. The respondents highlighted that besides some green spaces, they were not aware of the specific actions of the Municipality to combat climate change. When asked if the decision-makers take into consideration the needs of disabled people when setting climate change priorities, the response was that they take them into account, but in most cases, they are not applied. The energy crisis experienced these years (2021/22), impacted directly people with disabilities. The electric wheelchair cannot operate without electricity. If the battery is not sufficiently charged, the wheelchair will stop in the middle of the road and people with disability will not be able to move. The increases in electricity prices also impacted these

categories, because it takes 7 to 8 hours to charge a wheelchair's battery and that is expensive. The head of the family (the one who pays the bill) decides about the heating system. The respondents heard about the renewable energy options (solar panels, etc.), and they believe that the Municipality should subsidize or invest in renewable energy at all places where people with disabilities spend time.

Women are not represented adequately in the energy sector, otherwise, according to the perception of participants, they would have done much better. Participants also mentioned a woman who is working in the transport sector, as a worker's bus driver for a private company. As the engagement of the women in the transport sector is very low and unusually, to motivate the others, her story was also transmitted on Kosovo wide TV. Those participants that live in rural areas, declared using public transport, however, someone always has to help or carry them into the bus. The participants declared not feeling safe while walking at night mainly due to the presence of stray dogs, but also there are cases when someone bullies them due to their disabilities. Institutions should create public transport which is accessible for people with disabilities.

When it comes to public infrastructure, the Municipality should create access for wheelchairs near every crosswalk and near the roundabouts. The participants highlighted that 'it is not only for us – people with disabilities - but for old people and mothers with kids'. Additionally, according to the FGD, the Municipality should not sign any building permits if there are no representatives from people with a disability organization, every building needs to meet the criteria for access by people with disabilities. The same should be applied to private businesses. There are no bathrooms for people with disabilities, neither in public buildings nor in private cafes, restaurants, etc. Regarding waste management collection, people with disabilities are generally satisfied with the service. Although they mention that there are cases when public schools complained that the garbage at their schools is not collected regularly and there are no actions taken for waste recycling and not being aware of the importance of recycling. According to the participants, the municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka possesses metal recycling points that belong to private companies. One of the most important things – according to the participants - is to stop using plastic bags or to set a price for plastic bags. The participant noted that the rural development sector also contributes to climate change. Agriculture is a vital sector for societies, but plastic greenhouses farming is not healthy for the environment. One of the participants noted that women are underrepresented in this sector. Their participation in public discussions is lower compared to men, while most of the farm jobs are being undertaken by them. The participants see that women are more determined in the agriculture and should be more present in decision-making positions as well. Before the

end of the FG meeting, the participants added that the local authorities should prioritize opening factories and employing more people, making accessible busses for people with disabilities, creating access to cable cars and reducing air pollution, as well as supporting respondents with subsidies for agricultural and rural development.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The surveys, workshops, and in-depth interviews have helped identify lessons in the form of useful practices. This report is an empirical attempt to identify the most common practices that have proven to be useful in addressing climate change and gender perspectives.

The collected and analysed data shows that women are underrepresented in the decision-making levels in all focused sectors of this study. Thus, the institutions should impose the implementation of the Law on Gender Equality for equal participation in decision-making to increase women's participation at the municipal directorates covering the following sectors; energy, transport, public infrastructure, solid waste management, and rural development. Additionally, in the sectors where they are underrepresented, affirmative measures should be used to increase the number and percentage of women providing advisory services, which also can make rural women more comfortable and able to attend such services. When planning future investments, the institutions should ensure that they do not exacerbate existing gender inequalities and in order to do so, they must consider engaging gender experts to undertake gender impact analysis and use gender-responsive budgeting for future development and implementation of the municipal progressive plans on climate change. To balance the existing gap, the Municipality should also consider providing scholarship opportunities and adjusted conditions (higher salaries, career opportunities and better working conditions, such as work-life balance) for women to study in the sectors where their presence is minor.

To address the main challenges and to strengthen the standpoint of climate change and gender perspectives, the Municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka should pay special attention to ensuring gender responsiveness of climate change policies and disaster risk reduction strategies. They should also support gender mainstreaming in this area by mapping potential vulnerabilities of rural women and men to climate change and involving women and men in planning processes.

All researched categories (women, men, youth, and people with disabilities) showed general awareness as well as concern with the impacts of climate change. However, all categories are mainly informed about this topic from the internet, social media, television, etc.

The most vulnerable groups to climate change are perceived of being people with disabilities, the elderly, youth, children, and women.

The findings also indicate that – due to energy crises - the behaviour of most respondents is starting to change and the people's self-awareness on paying attention to saving energy has begun. In this regard the young generations still face difficulties in changing their behaviour. The energy crises affected the majority of the women's ability to use energy on daily basis. This issue might be left without consideration at sector decision-making bodies as there is women underrepresentation. The major obstacle for women's engagement in the energy sector is gender stereotypes, followed by insufficient career promotion opportunities for women and the difficulties in achieving work-family balances in this sector.

It is encouraging to note that the majority of interviewed youth from Suharekë/Suva Reka declared that buses, walking, and biking are the major modes of transport that they use on daily basis. However, it is also concerning to note that 50% of the women from the Municipality of Suharekë/Suvareka feel unsafe walking alone at night. When it comes to public transport, responsible institutions should particularly focus on improving the transport between rural and urban areas, hence this can support women in accessing education, employment opportunities, environmentalist activities, markets, etc.

The negative impacts of climate change are noticeable in the agricultural sector. There is less production in comparison to previous years, and farmers are already losing in terms of production quantity, and money. Climate-smart agriculture is an approach that helps guide actions to transform agri-food systems towards green and climate-resilient practices, and the majority of Kosovo youth responded affirmatively when asked if they heard about this 'concept'. It is recommended that the Municipality would invest in environmental protection and prevention of deforestation. Similarly, investments are needed in improvement of wastewater treatment in rural areas, reducing pollution of water on which people and their agricultural activities depend. Given that quite large differences of the research categories declared being unaware of the current situation on the climate change effects, the initiation of awareness campaigns against Kosovo's deforestation, highlighting the adverse impacts on farmers and food security, towards preventing pollution should also be prioritized.

It is recommended that the Municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka would focus on monitoring all expenditures disaggregated by gender and introducing affirmative measures where women and men to date have not benefitted equally. This way they could increase support for women's economic empowerment, ensuring women have access to decent work and decision-

making positions. Local institutions – and potential donors - should prioritize further investments in sectors where women already work and their engagement is culturally accepted – such as agriculture and/or rural development for example.

Priority should also be given to improving energy efficiency and developing cycling paths, increasing investments into improving walking routes, and the improvement of public infrastructure for people with disabilities. The largest investments should be oriented toward agriculture and rural development, by supporting farmers' access to modern tools, creating more opportunities to help small businesses of women, etc. The farmers should be also subsidized to access the climate agricultural projects, and enhance climate risk planning in the rural development sector, including the enforcement of women's participation in decision-making regarding rural development. Additionally, besides launching campaigns for promoting recycling, the Municipality should continue its support with modern equipment for waste collection as well as increasing waste collection points. The Municipality should also consider conducting a feasibility study and look at the areas where solar panels can be placed because the potential for solar energy generation is high in Suharekë/Suva Reka.

List of Annexes

Annex 1

Climate Change Gender Baseline Study of the rural development sector in the Municipality of Prizren

Introduction

With UNDP's support, Prizren Municipality, in line with its Municipal Development Plan (2013 -2025) and relevant policy papers, has drafted the climate change Cross-Sectorial Intervention Plan, 2020-2025, which is serving as a city guiding document for climate change actions, while within the current SLCA project, the same document is being drafted also for the Municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka. The CSIP includes interventions for the reduction of GHG emissions in sectors of energy, waste management, transport, and public services, and now added also the rural development sector. The CSIP incorporates the priority needs of men, women, and marginalized groups based on findings of the climate change gender baseline study, conducted in 2019 for Prizren Municipality. As such, the document is being updated to include interventions that introduce a decrease in GHG emissions in rural areas. The CSIPs should be sensitive to gender and social inclusion considerations informed by disaggregated data and intersectional analysis in terms of gender, ethnicity, status, and special needs or disability to ensure social justice for decision-making. Regarding this, the SLCA has supported the drafting of an inter-sectional Gender Baseline Study, which helps to identify different risks related to climate change risks in the sectors of energy, waste management, transport, public services, and rural development and to identify potential specific needs for different groups that will inform the CSIP for the Suharekë/Suva Reka municipality, and identify gender-responsive interventions for the rural development section of the CSIP for the Prizren municipality.

Approach and methodology

While this study has conducted surveys and focused group discussions and provided representative insights for the Suharekë/Suva Reka's population (in terms of gender, ethnicity, special need/disability, and/or other marginalization factors), for the Municipality of Prizren it required the assessment of the rural development sector only. That is why this part is added as an annex and will be used in amending the existing climate change CSIPs for the Prizren

Municipality. Building on the previous findings of the climate change gender baseline study, conducted in 2019 for Prizren Municipality, the 2022 research realized only two focus groups, diverse in terms of gender, age, and level of education. The presented findings below show the insights of the respondents as far as the Prizren Municipality's rural development sector is concerned.

Findings and Recommendations Priorities

The first focus group in Prizren Municipality was held with 9 participants, all of whom were men. All were over the age of 25, residents of Prizren Municipality, and seven of them were Albanians, one Bosnian of ethnicity. The participants were willing to answer and were open to conversation. They did not hesitate to answer any of the questions. Their answers were detailed and honest.

Findings show that not a large part of the participants are well informed about climate change. The participants declared that climate change impacts are also noticed when it comes to the seasons of the year, highlighting that although the winters – for example – are not that cold, they are longer than they used to be before. They participants mentioned numerous factors that have affected climate change. They listed the contribution of the developed countries on climate change, highlighting that as compared other larger countries, Kosovo contributes less to the global pollution However, in Kosovo as well, the deforestation happens, and that is why Institutions should pay more attention to protection and reforestation to fight the climate change. The participants declared being very concerned with climate change and would like more reporting by the media about 'natural degradation'. Also, according to participants, educational institutions should promote the protection of nature. Maybe starting for their school organize nature site seeing for the students by taking care to leave the environment as they found it.

The participants declared that those with poor health (including people with disabilities) are more affected by climate change. The respondents were also asked if their behaviour changed as far as the daily use of energy needs, especially after the energy crisis that they experienced during the previous winter(s). One of them noted that most of the customers do not know how to calculate their electricity bills and that there were cases where although they tried to save electricity, their bills were even more expensive than in the previous month(s). The majority of them considers that woman should do more to save energy usage at home, and this would be their major contribution to the energy sector. However, they also agree that

more women could be employed in the energy sector or studies, given that nowadays there are opportunities for them. When asked what their municipality should do to improve the situation in the energy sector, they suggested the creation of thermal plants for specific neighbourhoods and the use of geothermal energy for district heating. They also noted quite long ago, it has been mentioned building the hydropower plant in Zhur, but this depends on the central institutions and not on the municipality. The respondents were also asked about the types of transport they use to carry out daily activities. The majority of them mentioned 'cars' as their main type of transport, although more cars – according to them – create more pollution and damage to nature. However, bikes and electric scooters were also mentioned as their preferred modes of transport. The participants of the FG with men, considered the stereotype mentality as an obstacle for women to be employed in this sector. They think that there are 'women taxis' and 'women bus drivers' in Prishtina, but not in Prizren as well. Public infrastructure can have positive impacts on environmental change, hence if - for example, says one of the respondents - there are frequent and regular busses, or other public transport mechanisms, he would not use his car all the time. Municipal priorities in this regard should be the development of strategies for modern urbanization of urban and rural areas, banning unauthorized constructions, etc.

When asked about their feelings of safety, the only 'thing' that the respondents declared of feeling threatened are stray dogs, and this makes them feel unsafe both during the night and day. The respondents declared being generally satisfied with the Waste Management Sector. But it is also noted that some parts of the city are degraded by garbage. There are cases when an object is destroyed or renovated, and the garbage is thrown in places where it should not be. It is recommended that more inspectors are engaged in these cases. The respondents consider that both men and women can work in this sector when such opportunities are offered to them. The local government should prioritize adding more small baskets on the streets, and not only in the city. Recycling is also considered a necessary step forward, then the respondents could separate plastic, metal, glass, etc. The municipality should intend to use donations, especially EU funds for such projects. The FG participants consider that in additional to contributing to climate change, rural development also affects the employment sector as well as the depopulation of rural areas. All members of this FG group agree that numerous actions for rural development must be undertaken, such as grant subsidies for agriculture, infrastructural investments in rural areas, etc. The participants mentioned being aware of some non-governmental organizations that are active in engaging women in agricultural development. When asked if – according to their opinions - women are sufficiently

involved in decision-making in the rural development sector, they responded that more should be done to increase women's equality in decision-making. However, the municipality – according to the respondents - invested in this sector, mentioning examples of the production of strawberries with modern irrigation systems which the municipality has subsidized.

From here, the presented findings are collected from a second focus group which was held with 15 women from Prizren Municipality. All of them are over the age of 18 and of Albanian ethnicity. At the beginning of the discussion, the participants were reluctant to answer, but with the insistence of the interviewer and the research questions, they began to provide more details about their knowledge of climate change and its impacts on the municipality of Prizren. When asked about their awareness of Climate Change, they responded of not know it by definition, but heard of 'it from social media and other networks. However, this lady noted that it is important that youth are more informed about this phenomenon. The participants declared being worried about the negative impacts of global warming, especially when - for example - there are fires in the mountains, or the winds, which affect the health and well-being of humans and animals' health. The FG participants also believe that some social groups are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change than others. According to the women, youth, and persons with disabilities suffer more from these consequences.

Another respondent mentioned that for women, it is much more difficult especially given that there is a lack of institutional support, that is the reason that the women who deal with agriculture are usually ones that grew up in families which cultivated or they took that profession because they had no other choice. However, they should be offered special support - relevant to this nature of job - from the municipality or the ministry. Due to their potentially lower levels of education - women in rural areas cannot fill in online applications hence it is very difficult for them to access the technology. The participants of this FG mentioned noticing positive actions taken at the local level to combat climate change. However, when discussing the municipality's support to the farmers, the participants mentioned that although there are cases when institutions - for example - subsidized seeds, they give them of poor quality. Some other ways via which youth and women could be better involved in combating climate change are on-job training or possibilities for practical experiences with different technologies, vocational schools, etc. Rural development and agriculture contribute to climate change. However, one of the challenges is that society's lifestyle has changed during the last two decades, even in rural areas there are no animals (cows, goats, etc.). This is also because sometimes it is cheaper to buy a product rather than produce it. Thus, no profit from the food/agricultural products.

People are not even planting plants anymore, although the benefits are enormous, they release oxygen and it undoubtfully affects climate change including the degradation or destruction of forests. When asked about their information on deforestation practices in the area they live in, they mentioned that the trees are cut also due to construction purposes (carpentering, etc.). This impacts the environment, children' s playgrounds, drinkable water, etc. There should be more green spaces. The participants are also asked about gender-sensitive interventions that they think should be undertaken for greater involvement of women in the rural development sector. They considered the family mentality and gender stereotypes as the areas which require intervention. FG participants mentioned that if for example a woman is seen while driving a tractor, the first reaction could be 'women don' t drive". Especially in rural areas, the roles are defined, what women should do and what not. Thus, the campaigns and training for raising society' s awareness, are crucial interventions that should be undertaken. However, the table below presents major priorities that are highlighted during the FGD with men and women in the rural areas of the Municipality of Prizren (see table 6).

Table 6: What should be the priorities of the local government regarding the discussed sectors in this focus group?

Sector(s)	Priorities	Women	Men
Energy Sector	Create thermal plants for specific neighbourhoods.		X
	Build the hydropower plant in Zhur		X
	Remove taxes for solar panels.	X	X
	To use geothermal energy for district heating.	X	X
Transport Sector	Spaces for tram transport		X
	More bus route lines	X	
	Increase safety in public spaces	X	
	Add street lights	X	X
	Biking lines for all destinations in the urban and rural areas.	X	X
Public Infrastructure Sector	The urbanization must be well designed (parking lots, playgrounds for children, more green areas, etc. for every collective building)	X	X

	Unauthorized constructions must be stopped	X	X
	Sufficient lighting in public spaces	X	
Solid Waste Management Sector	Add waste baskets on the streets	X	
	Recycling is necessary, add the options to separate plastic bags, bio and glass.	X	X
	Create mechanisms to use waste for district heating		X
	Establish rules, fines for burning garbage, etc.	X	X
	Ban selling plastic bags from the market	X	
Rural Development Sector	The municipality must focus on fixing the roads in the peripheric neighbourhoods	X	X
	The municipality must work to stop the degradation of forests	X	X
	The municipality should support the farmers with qualitative seeds and modern equipment for agricultural development	X	
	The municipality should engage experts to an evaluate the quality municipal subsidies (seeds, green house materials, etc.)	X	X

The findings show that although a significant number of society is not well informed about 'climate change', the majority of them declared being very concerned with its visible effects (weather changes, air and water pollution, etc.) and asked for more reporting by the media about 'natural degradation'. The respondents from Prizren Municipality believe that those with poor health (including people with disabilities) are mostly affected by climate change. The educational institutions are encouraged to promote the protection of nature, organize nature site seeing for pupils and students, and educate them to take care of the environment (clean and without garbage).

The findings also reveal that women are underrepresented in the decision-making municipal structures, particularly in the transport, energy, infrastructure, and agriculture sectors. Stereotypes and the 'mentality of society' is considered a major obstacle for women to work

in these sectors. However, the respondents from both men and women focus groups urge the municipality to create broader possibilities - such as scholarships and career opportunities – for women to study and work in the fields of energy, transport, infrastructure, agriculture, etc.

The municipality should also consider to undertake the following actions for addressing climate change effects in the city; create thermal and hydropower plans, remove taxes for solar panels, increase the number of green spaces such as parks and playgrounds for children, as well as add biking lines for all destinations in the urban and rural areas, etc.

Annex 2

The questionnaire with respondents from Suharekë/Suva Reka

Assessing Awareness Towards Climate Change

1. Have you heard about climate change?
   a) Yes
   b) No (7)
   c) I do not know/ Refuse to answer

2. Where have you heard about climate change?
   - ❑ Television
   - ❑ Radio
   - ❑ Social media
   - ❑ School/college/university
   - ❑ Friends/family
   - ❑ Governmental agencies
   - ❑ Environmental groups
   - ❑ Other: Please specify_____

3. On a scale from 1 to 5, how concerned are you about climate change?

1. Not at all concerned	2. Slightly concerned	3. Somewhat concerned	4. Moderately concerned	5. Extremely concerned

4. Who, in your opinion, should have the primary responsibility for combating climate change?
   a) International organizations
   b) Central Institutions
   c) Local institutions
   d) Businesses

e) Environmental organizations
f) Individuals
g) Other (specify)

5. Have you noticed any positive actions taken at the local level regarding combating climate change?

   a) Yes, I have noticed positive actions (Q6)

   b) No, I have not noticed any actions taken (Q7)

   c) I do not know/ Refuse to answer (Q7)

6. What positive actions have you noticed?

   _____

   _____

7. Do you live in a house/apartment that is close to:
   a) The River
   b) A forest
   c) Electric Grid
   d) Crop-fields
   e) None

8. Do you work in one of the following sectors?

Sectors	**Yes**	**No**	**I do not know/refuse to answer**
Energy			
Transport			
Public Infrastructure Services			
Solid Waste Management			
Rural Development			

9. Do you know any woman who works in these sectors?

Sectors	**Yes**	**No**	**I do not know/refuse to answer**

Energy			
Transport			
Public Infrastructure Services			
Solid Waste Management			
Rural Development			

Energy sector

10. How familiar are you with renewable energy on a scale from 1 to 5?

1. Not at all familiar	2. Slightly familiar	3. Somewhat familiar	4. Moderately familiar	5. Extremely familiar

11. Has the global energy crisis affected your ability to adequately use energy for your daily needs? (*Assessing energy poverty*)
    a) No, not at all
    b)
    b) No
    c) To some extent
    d) Yes
    f) Yes, greatly

12. Who decides how to heat the house during the winter months?
    a) I
    b) Spouse
    c) My partner
    d) Mother
    e) Father
    f) Parents in law
    g) Children
    h) Other_____

13. Who decides on how much to heat the house during the winter months? (*Household Energy Spending Decision-making)*
    a) I
    b) Spouse
    c) My partner
    d) Mother
    e) Father
    f) Parents in law

g) Children
h) Other_____

14. How would you rate women's employment in the energy sector?
    a) Very poor
    b) Poor
    c) Fair
    d) Good
    e) Very good

15. Are there any obstacles preventing women from seeking careers in the energy sector?
    g) Yes (Q16)
    h) No (Q17)
    i) I do not know

16. What do you consider obstacles to women's engagement in the energy sector?

- ❑ Lack of appropriate skills due to lack of energy-related education;
- ❑ Insufficient career promotion opportunities for women in this sector;
- ❑ Gender stereotypes (energy being a technical and man-dominated sector)
- ❑ Personal safety
- ❑ The difficulty of achieving a work-family life balance
- ❑ Other (specify)

17. On a scale from 1 to 5, how would you rate the level of women's participation in the decision-making process in the energy sector?

1. Very poor	2. Poor	3. Fair	4. Good	5. Very good

18. How critical is women's engagement in decision-making in the energy sector?

1. Not important	2. Slightly important	3. Moderately important	4. Important	Very Important

19. Please rate the level of priority for the following statements at the local level:

	Not a priority	**Low priority**	**Medium Priority**	**High priority**	**Essential**	**I don't know/ Refuse to answer**
Improving energy efficiency						

Integrate renewable energy resources into energy systems.						
Enhance women's education in the energy sector						
Enhance women's participation in energy policy planning						
Enhance women's participation in energy- boards						
Raise public awareness of energy efficiency						
Piloting household rooftop solar installations						
Enforcing building standards rigorously						

Transport Sector

20. Do you use any transport daily?
    a) Yes (21)
    b) No (22)
    c) I do not know/ Refuse to answer

21. What modes of transport do you use daily?
    a) Walking (23)
    b) Car (24)
    c) Bus (22)
    d) Bike (24)
    e) Scooter (24)
    f) Motorbike (24)
    g) Other _____

22. Do you feel safe when traveling alone by bus?
    a) Never
    b) Rarely
    c) Sometimes
    d) Often
    e) Always

23. Do you feel safe walking alone at night?
    a) Never
    b) Rarely
    c) Sometimes
    d) Often
    e) Always

24. What are the reasons for using this type of transport?
    a) Safety
    b) Comfort
    c) Price
    d) Speed
    e) Reliability
    f) Privacy
    g) Environmental reasons
    h) Other (specify)

25. To what degree does transport contribute to climate change?
    a) Not at all
    b) Slightly
    c) Moderately
    d) Very
    e) Extremely

26. How would you rate women's employment in the transport sector?

1. Very poor	2. Poor	3. Fair	4. Good	5. Very good

27. Are there any obstacles preventing women from seeking careers in the transport sector?
    a) Yes (Q28)
    b) No (Q29)
    c) I do not know

28. What do you consider as obstacles to women's engagement in the transport sector?
    - ❑ Lack of appropriate skills due to lack of transport-related education;
    - ❑ Insufficient career promotion opportunities for women in this sector;
    - ❑ Gender stereotypes (transport being a technical and man-dominated sector)
    - ❑ Personal safety
    - ❑ The difficulty of achieving a work-family life balance
    - ❑ Other (specify)

29. How would you rate the level of participation of women in the decision-making process in the transport sector?

1. Very poor	2. Poor	3. Fair	4. Good	5. Very good

30. How important is women's engagement in the transport sector decision-making?

1. Not important	2. Slightly important	3. Moderately important	4. Important	5. Very Important

31. **Please rate the level of priority for the following statements at the local level:**

	Not a priority	**Low priority**	**Medium Priority**	**High priority**	**Essential**	**I do not know/ Refuse to answer**
Developing a cycling path						
Invest in public transport						
Developing walkability toolkit application						
Increasing investment in improving walking paths						
Promote women's participation in city transport planning						
Include more women in transport-based jobs						
Provide Preferential Treatment to Woman-Owned Businesses in Transport Procurement						
Advocacy for benefits of Low carbon transport						

Public infrastructure services

32. How much does public infrastructure contribute to climate change?
    a) It does not contribute at all
    b) Minor contribution

c) Neutral
d) Moderate contribution
e) Major affect

	Not a priority	**Low priority**	**Medium Priority**	**High priority**	**Essential**	**I do not know/ Refuse to answer**
Clean urban drainage network						
Improving services for waste collection						
Considering Biodiversity protection in urban planning						
Prevent the development of residential areas near the river						
Improve public infrastructure for people with disabilities						
Provide organized transport to public institutions for older adults						
Development of an application/system for voluntary reporting of illegal waste dumpsites						
Improve public lighting in the city						
Uses of renewable energy for streetlights						
Improving management of the environment at the local level						

33. In general, how satisfied are you with the public infrastructure services in your municipality?
    a) Not at all satisfied
    b) Slightly satisfied
    c) Moderately satisfied
    d) Very satisfied
    e) Extremely satisfied

34. How important is women's employment in the public infrastructure services sector?

1. Not important	a) Slightly important	b) Moderately Important	c) Important	d) Very important

35. Are there any obstacles preventing women from seeking careers in the public infrastructure sector?
    a) Yes (Q36)
    b) No (Q37)
    c) I do not know

36. What do you consider as obstacles to women's engagement in the infrastructure sector?
    - ❑ Lack of appropriate skills due to lack of infrastructure-related education;
    - ❑ Insufficient career promotion opportunities for women in this sector;
    - ❑ Gender stereotypes (infrastructure being a technical and man-dominated sector)
    - ❑ Personal safety
    - ❑ The difficulty of achieving a work-family life balance
    - ❑ Other (specify)

37. On a scale from 1 to 5, how would you rate the level of participation of women in the decision-making process in the public infrastructure services sector?

1. Very poor	2. Poor	3. Fair	4. Good	5. Very good

38. **Please rate the degree of priority of the following statements on the local level**

	Not a priority	**Low priority**	**Medium Priority**	**High priority**	**Essential**	**I do not know/ Refuse to answer**
Clean urban drainage network						
Improving services for waste collection						
Considering Biodiversity protection in urban planning						
Prevent the development of residential areas near the river						
Improve public infrastructure for people with disabilities						

Provide organized transportation to public institutions for older adults						
Development of an application/system for voluntary reporting of illegal waste dumpsites						
Improve public lighting in the city						
Uses of renewable energy for streetlights						
Improving management of environment at the local level						

39. Please rate which infrastructure Investment should the local government prioritize.

	Not a priority	**Low priority**	**Medium Priority**	**High priority**	**Essential**
Water infrastructure					
Transport infrastructure					
Energy infrastructure					
Communication infrastructure					
Rural infrastructure					

Solid waste management

40. Would you list solid waste management as one of your municipality's top three main problems?
    a) Yes
    b) No
    c) I do not know/ Refuse to answer

41. Do you usually buy in bulk or individually packed goods?
    a) Individually packed goods
    b) In bulk
    c) A combination of both

42. Are you aware of any recycling points in your municipality?
    a) Yes
    b) No
    c) I do not know/Refuse to answer

43. What do you do with your old clothes?
    a) I donate them away for charity
    b) I give them to my relatives
    c) I throw them in the garbage
    d) I sell them
    e) Other_____

44. How important is women's employment in the waste management sector?

1. Not important	2. Slightly important	3. Moderately Important	4. Important	5. Very important

45. Are there any obstacles preventing women from seeking careers in the waste management sector?
    d) Yes (Q46)
    e) No (Q47)
    f) I do not know

46. What do you consider obstacles to women's participation in the waste management sector jobs?
    - ❑ Lack of appropriate skills due to lack of waste-related education;
    - ❑ Insufficient career promotion opportunities for women in this sector;
    - ❑ Gender stereotypes (infrastructure being a technical and man-dominated sector);
    - ❑ Personal safety;
    - ❑ The difficulty of achieving a work-family life balance;
    - ❑ Other (specify)

47. On a scale from 1 to 5, how would you rate the level of participation of women in the decision-making process in the waste management sector?

1. Very poor	2. Poor	3. Fair	4. Good	5. Very good

48. In your opinion which should be the priorities of the municipality for the solid waste collection system to be improved?

	Not a priority	Low priority	Medium Priority	High priority	Essential	I do not know/ Refuse to answer
Increase waste collection points						
Online schedule information for picking up trash						
Ensure the procurement of modern equipment to collect waste						
Prevent the development of residential areas near the river						
Employ women in solid waste collection						
Integrate the informal waste pickers into the existing waste management system						
Keeping waste out of the landfill						
Awareness raising for waste prevention						
Launching campaigns promoting recycling						
Introducing recycling networks at schools						
Imposing disincentives (paying) for certain types of waste such as plastic bags used at supermarkets.						

Rural Development Sector

49. Do you think that agriculture contributes to climate change?
    a) Yes
    b) No
    c) I do not know/Refuse to answer

50. On a scale from one (1) to five (5), how much do you believe climate change affects crop production?

1. No effect	2. Minor affect	3. Neutral	4. Moderate affect	5. Major affect

51. Do you believe that climate change affects food security?
    a) Yes
    b) No
    c) I do not know/Refuse to answer

52. Do you believe that climate change affects the price stability of food?
    a) Yes
    b) No
    c) I do not know/Refuse to answer

53. On a scale from one (1) to five (5), how concerned are you regarding deforestation?

1. Not at all concerned	2. Slightly concerned	3. Slightly concerned	4. Moderately concerned	5. Extremely concerned

54. On a scale from one (1) to five (5), how concerned are you regarding wildfires?

1. Not at all concerned	2. Slightly concerned	3. Slightly concerned	4. Moderately concerned	5. Extremely concerned

55. On a scale from one (1) to five (5), how concerned are you regarding floods?

2. Not at all concerned	6. Slightly concerned	7. Slightly concerned	8. Moderately concerned	9. Extremely concerned

56. Have you heard of climate-smart agriculture?
    a) Yes
    b) No
    c) I do not know/ Refuse to answer

57. How important is women's employment in the rural development sector?
58. Are there any obstacles preventing women from seeking careers in the rural development sector?
    g) Yes (Q59)
    h) No (Q60)
    i) I do not know/Refuse to answer

59. What do you consider obstacles to women's participation in the rural development sector jobs?

- ❑ Lack of appropriate skills due to lack of education in rural development;

- ❑ Insufficient career promotion opportunities for women in this sector;
- ❑ Gender stereotypes (infrastructure being a technical and man-dominated sector);
- ❑ Personal safety;
- ❑ The difficulty of achieving a work-family life balance;
- ❑ Other (specify)

60. On a scale from 1 to 5, how would you rate the level of participation of women in the decision-making process in the rural development sector?

1. Not important	2. Slightly important	3. Moderately Important	4. Important	5. Very important

	Not a priority	**Low priority**	**Medium Priority**	**High priority**	**Essential**
The application of water-saving cultivation systems					
Raise public awareness about food loss and waste					
Avoid deforestation from agriculture					
Develop Early climate warning systems					
Investing in drought-tolerant seeds					
Invest in improving soil health					
Enhance climate risk-informed policy planning in rural development sector					
Subsidize farmers to access for climate resilient agriculture products					
Include women in decision-making regarding rural development					

1. Very poor	2. Poor	3. Fair	4. Good	5. Very good

61. **Please rate the degree of priority of the following statements on the local level:**

	Not a priority	**Low priority**	**Medium Priority**	**High priority**	**Essential**

Demographic Data of the Respondents

D1. Ethnicity:

a) Albanian
b) Serbian
c) Bosnian
d) Goran
e) Turkish
f) Roma
g) Ashkali
h) Egyptian
i) Other: Please specify_____
j) Refuse to answer

D2. Age (years) ____

D3. Settlement

a) Urban
b) Rural

D4. Marital status:

a) Single
b) In a relationship
c) Engaged
d) Married
e) Separated
f) Divorced
g) Widowed
h) Refuse to answer

D5. Highest Education level completed

a) Elementary School
b) High School
c) Bachelor
d) Masters
e) Doctorate
f) None

D6. Employment status:

a) Employed in the public sector (D7)
b) Employed in the private sector (D7)
c) Employed from time to time (D7)
d) Unemployed (looking for work)
e) Unemployed (not looking for work)

f) Retired
g) Housewife
h) Student
i) Other (specify)

D7. Personal monthly income after taxes (if employed):

a) Less than 100 Euro
b) 101-200 Euro
   201-350 Euro
c) 351-500 Euro
d) 501 Euro or more
e) Refuse to answer