UN Women in Europe and Central Asia

2014 results, challenges and opportunities
Gender Inequality Commonalities in ECA

- Low participation of women in politics and public life
- Women’s unequal participation in the labour market
- High rates of violence against women
- Many women suffer from multiple forms of discrimination – rural, elderly, disabilities
- Weak gender equality mechanisms – lack of influence and funding
- Strong normative frameworks but huge “implementation gap”
Challenges for the ECA Region

- Adverse impact of the global financial crises and subsequent austerity policies
- Low capacities of women’s CSOs – under-resourced, weak, fragmented
- Donors leaving the region – lack of ODA for gender equality and women’s rights
UN Women in Europe and Central Asia

- **Regional office** – Istanbul, Turkey

- **Multi-country office** – Almaty, Kazakhstan (Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan)

- **Country offices** – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova

- **Programme presences** overseen by RO – Serbia, FYR Macedonia, Kosovo (as per UNSCR 1244)
UN Women’s Comparative Advantage in ECA

• Clear and compelling mandate to lead the UN system:
  – Programmatic
  – Normative
  – Coordination and coherence
  – Advocacy

• Normative expertise on gender equality and women’s rights

• Strong and long-standing civil society partnerships and support
1. Expanding women’s voice, leadership and participation

2. Ending violence against women

3. Strengthening implementation of the women, peace and security agenda

4. Enhancing women’s economic empowerment

5. Making gender equality priorities central to national, local and sectoral planning and budgeting
2014 annual work plans, the top 3 focus areas for the region;
1. Women’s economic empowerment
2. Women, peace and security and
3. Governance and national planning
Albania: A National Action Plan (NAP) for Women Entrepreneurs (2014 to 2020)

• an allocation by Cabinet of $250,000 fund to support women entrepreneurs is adopted by the Ministry of Economic Development Trade and Entrepreneurship

• UN Women instrumental in supporting and advising the Ministry as NAP was established

• the supporting fund is based on the Mid-Term Budgeting Programme, a direct result of Gender-Responsive Budgeting advice and support from the Ministry of Finance and directly by UN Women, the fund allocation of $250,000 based on Council of Ministers decision
Results 2014
Women Peace and Security

Georgia: Enhance coordination, implementation, monitoring and reporting of the NAP 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security

- Technical support to the Government of Georgia in the implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325
- Mainstreaming of gender into the Security Sector Reform with the Ministry of Defense
- State Legal Aid Service - villages adjacent to the conflict zones
- Exploring economic opportunities and support to the enhancement of livelihoods of IDP and conflict affected women
Results 2014
Governance, planning and budgeting

Promoting gender responsive policies in South East Europe and the Republic of Moldova” (2013-2016)

• FYR Macedonia results:
• New institutional mechanisms, tools and capacities for identifying the gender specific needs of women and men in policies, tracking public allocations from a gender perspective and improving the oversight of central and local government programs, policies and budgets towards gender equality commitments
  – Budget circular for central level budget users for 2014
  – Methodology on Gender Responsive Budgeting for Central Government Institutions developed
  – Six Ministries and one State Institution have conducted gender analyses
UN Women leads/co-chairs the UN Gender Theme Group or Human Rights Theme Group in 12 countries:

- Albania
- Bosnia Herzegovina
- Georgia
- Kazakhstan
- Kosovo (as per UNSCR 1244)
- Kyrgyzstan
- FYR Macedonia
- Moldova
- Serbia
- Tajikistan
- Turkey
- Uzbekistan
Partnerships

- **Regional organizations** - OSCE – NAP 1325, CoE – Istanbul convention
- **Private sector** – Joint campaigns HeForShe, WEPs
- **Innovative partnerships** – Sports to engage men and boys
Looking forward

• Deepening technical leadership and voice
• Support to roll out of the SDGs
• Gender advice in regional processes such as EU accession
• Expanding partnerships – Regional organizations and IFIs
• Being creative about advocacy and outreach
• Resource mobilization: Regional programmes, Private sector, joint RM
Thank you!