



Government
of Montenegro



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



**Montenegro SDG
Acceleration
Fund**

A vehicle for
Sustainable Development



GENDER EQUALITY TALKS

International Rural Women Day - Building Sustainable and Inclusive Communities

14 October 2024, Bijelo Polje

Location:

The Municipal Assembly Hall of Bijelo Polje

Duration:

10:00 – 12:00h

Organizers:

United Nations Development
Programme (UNDP)

and

United Nations Food and
Agriculture Organization (UNFAO)

Partners:

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water
Management of Montenegro (MAFWM),
Municipality Bijelo Polje, Municipality Plav
and Municipality Berane

Moderator:

Jovana Davidovic



BACKGROUND

Celebrating International Rural Women's Day in Bijelo Polje underscores the vital importance of empowering rural women for sustainable development and economic growth in the northern regions. This event perfectly aligns with the goals of the **"EmpowHER"** project, a collaborative effort between UNDP and UNFAO, dedicated to fostering inclusive rural development in municipalities like Berane, Bijelo Polje, and Plav.

Rural women in Montenegro are pivotal in agriculture, rural tourism and community development, yet they face significant hurdles such as limited access to land, financial resources, and decision-making platforms. These challenges, compounded by traditional gender roles, hinder their full participation in economic and social life, perpetuating gender inequalities.

The **"EmpowHER"** project tackles these issues by enhancing rural women's skills in business development, green innovation, and resource management. Through capacity building and promoting gender-responsive practices, the Project aims to boost their socio-economic status and encourage sustainable development in agriculture and rural tourism.

The Bijelo Polje event will celebrate the remarkable achievements of rural women and highlight successful initiatives driving economic transformation. It will also offer a platform for discussing strategies to overcome systemic barriers, aligning with Montenegro's commitments to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the EU Gender Action Plan III.

AGENDA

10:00 - 10:15 Opening

Welcoming remarks:

- ◆ **Selma Omerovic** – President of Municipal Assembly of the Municipality Bijelo Polje,
- ◆ **Krsto Radjenovic** – State Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
- ◆ **Ekaterina Paniklova** – UNDP Resident Representative
- ◆ **Nabil Gangi** - FAO Deputy Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia, de-facto Head of Office for Montenegro

10:20 – 10:40 Presentation of key findings of the country level analysis of gender, agriculture and rural development sector (CGA).

- ◆ **Elizabeth Duban** – International Consultant, FAO
- ◆ **Milena Acimic**, National Gender Consultant, FAO

10:40 – 11:50 Panel discussion

- ◆ **Jelena Zvizdojevic** – UNDP National Consultant for gender mainstreaming of sustainable development goals
- ◆ **Ermina Redzematovic** – co owner of “Household Redzematovic”
- ◆ **Bojana Joksimovic** – co owner of “Household Joksimovic”
- ◆ **Nihad Canovic** - President of the Municipality of Plav
- ◆ **Aleksandra Despotovic** - Professor at the Department of Agricultural Economics, Biotechnical Faculty, University of Montenegro
- ◆ **Representative of the Municipality Berane** (tbd)

Floor interventions:

- ◆ **Biljana Pejovic** – Head of Department for Gender Equality at Ministry of Human and Minority Rights
- ◆ **Natasa Vojinovic** – Deputy director of statistical Office of Montenegro
- ◆ **Slavica Delibasic** - representative of the NGO Network for Rural Development of Montenegro
- ◆ **Snezana Zecevic** - representative of the NGO RRA Bjelasica and Komovi

11:50 – 12:00 Closing Remarks

- ◆ **Igor Nisavic** - Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Water Management
- ◆ **Ratko Batakovic** - President of the Network for Rural Development

12:00

Refreshment