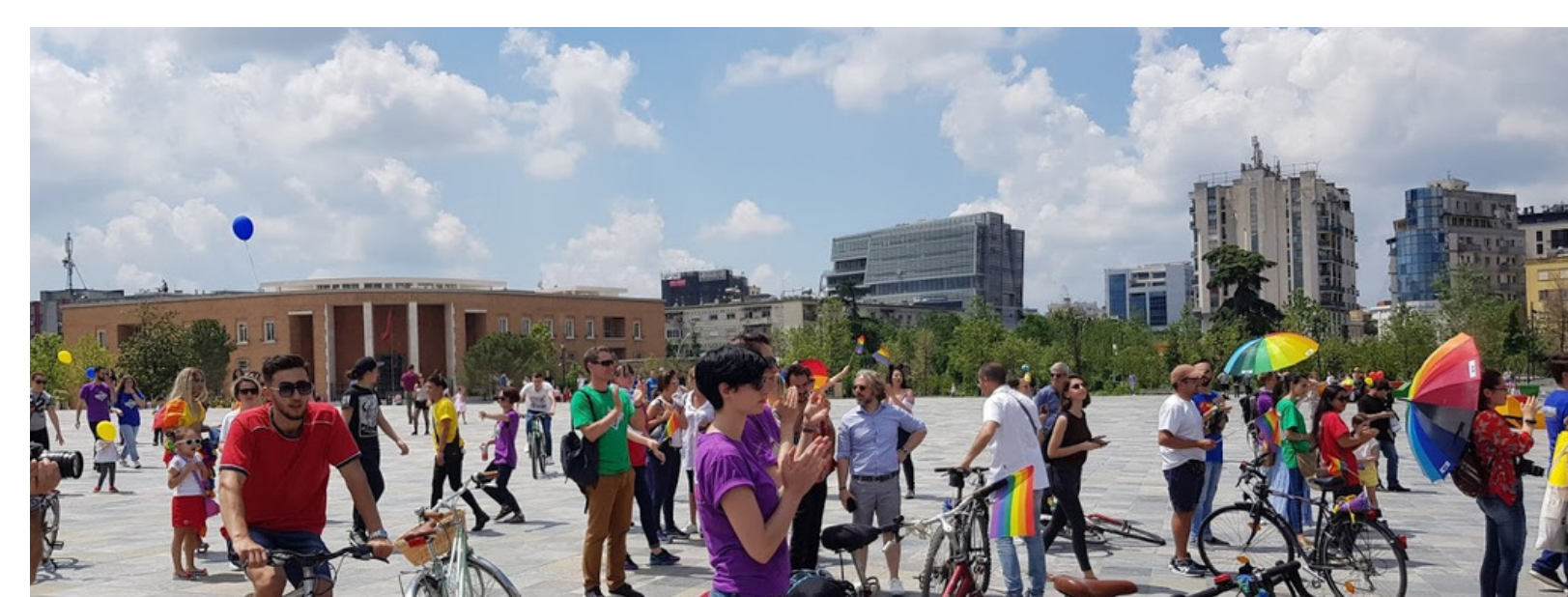




ALBANIA

Albania (pop.3 million), located in Southeastern Europe is an upper-middle income economy (DAC). Following the end of communism in 1990, the country went through a process of transition from a centralized economy to a market-based economy. It provides universal health care and free primary and secondary education but has challenges in paying teacher salaries and providing health and sanitation infrastructure. As a candidate for membership in the European Union, the accession to EU is the overarching priority,

and the 2030 Agenda program is aligned with the EU accession process. The Albanian Parliament unanimously approved a resolution confirming Albania's commitment to the 2030 Agenda and an Inter-Ministerial Committee on the SDGs, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister of Albania, is in charge of the 2030 Agenda process. The Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was presented to the United Nations High Level Political Forum on SDGs in July 2018.



WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Albania has made significant progress in protecting human rights and fighting crime and corruption. It ratified most international human rights conventions and it has enacted laws and campaigns to protect the environment. On women's political empowerment, progress was made during the election of 2017: women comprised 40.3% of the candidates, and 28% of elected parliamentarians. This rate of female representation is the country's highest, and it increased by 10% from the 2013 elections. It is also the first time that the deputy prime minister is a woman.

The Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs established an online monitoring platform for Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). But a lot of work is needed in order to change the situation for women.

Sex selection at birth remains an issue in Albania.

Gender-based violence (GBV) is still prevalent. The public has become more sensitive on the matter, and thus the number of cases reported to authorities increased from less than 10 cases ten years ago, to 3,725 in 2016, to 4,543 in 2017.

Another challenge is the unhygienic condition of school toilets especially in small cities and rural areas. This results not only from a lack of water but also from lack of maintenance. Due to the bad conditions of the school toilets some girls, during their menstrual periods, do not attend school.

These challenges were studied by "Women in Development" as part of the Women2030 Project. The results of the study will be discussed in the following pages.

4543
reports of Gender-Based Violence cases in 2017

28%
of the parliamentarians are women



Workshop in Albania



WOMEN2030 IN ALBANIA

“Women in Development” Albania, is part of the Women2030 program, which aims to engage women’s organizations in the process of achieving the SDGs of 2030 Agenda.

In March 2018, “Women in Development” held a policy consultation with policy makers, women organizations and CSOs, as well as strategic partners, presenting on how to improve national policies, plans and budgets for SDGs from a gender perspective. Among the 77 participants were representatives of the Cabinet of the Deputy Prime Minister, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, UN, WHO, international organizations, civil society, experts, youth and media.

The Inter-Ministerial Committee on the SDGs includes one civil society representative, the private sector and development partners. It was recommended in the policy consultation that a greater diversity of civil society organizations is included in the SDG Committee, in line with the Major Group concept of the UN, which gives space to over 10 constituencies, including youth and women.

“Women in Development” carried out a Gender Assessment for which 198 women and men from urban, peri-urban and rural areas were interviewed about key focus areas of the SDGs, which is presented in this factsheet, and forms the basis of the Women2030 shadow report.



Woman selling hand embroidered tablecloths



Child leaning on a model of Earth



Kids in rural Shkodra

DEMOGRAPHIC

198 people- 111 women (56%) and 87 men (44%), from urban, peri-urban and rural areas, filled in the gender and SDG questionnaire conducted in Albania in the framework of “Women 2030.” Focus interviews were carried out with another 30 women and 30 men in the municipalities of Shkodra and Malesia. The results of the interviews are community-generated data, based on a well-founded survey methodology, which can be used as input into the national SDG monitoring.

The results show a higher gender gap in terms of time allocated to paid and unpaid work. Women have less or no free time, and work up to 4 times more hours than men, especially in rural areas.

Living conditions, including water and sanitation, are unsatisfactory in peri-urban and rural areas. Tap water is generally not potable and is only supplied a few hours per day.

The interviews also show that even in urban areas, parents are concerned for their daughters' lack of safe sanitation conditions in schools.

As regards women’s influence and participation on decision-making, they felt they have more of an influence at the national, rather than local level.

Study participants gave the highest priority to improving pre-school child care and reducing gender based violence.

137.2%
percentage of average leisure time that men enjoy more than women



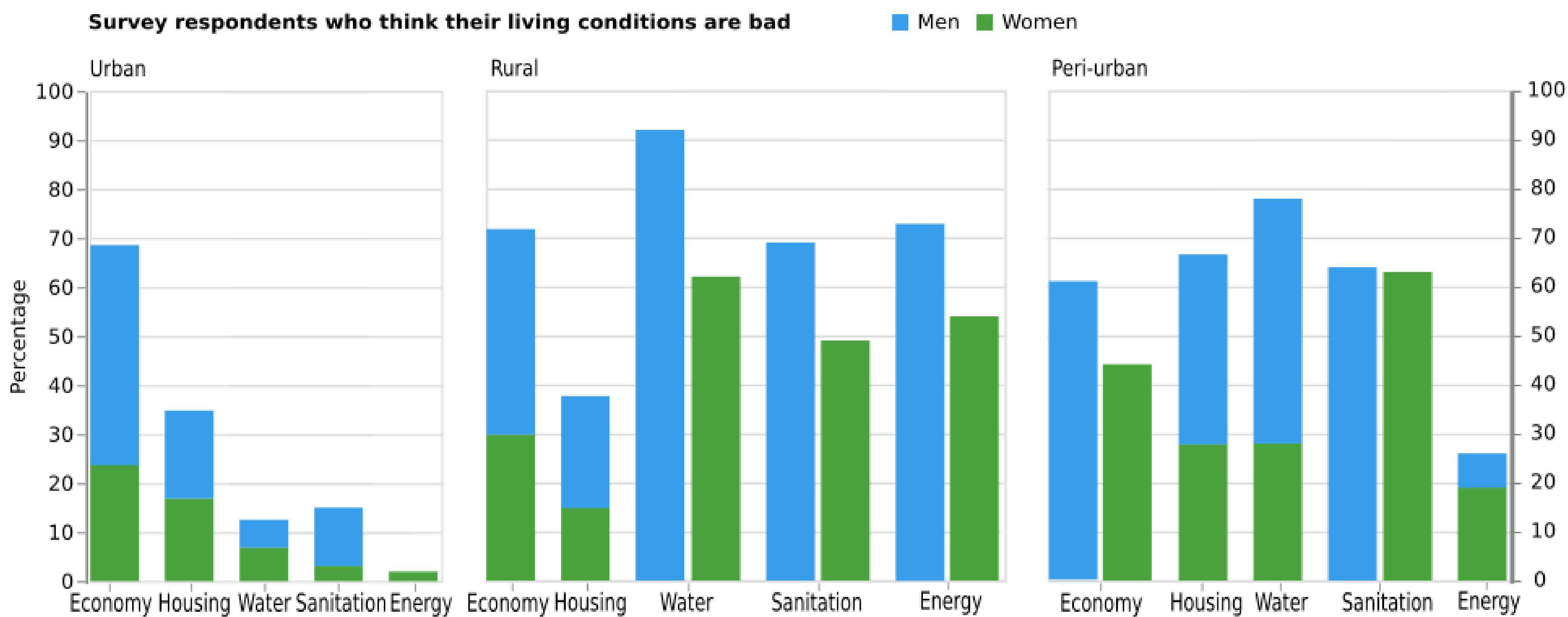
Urban area: Tirana



Rural area: Shkodra



LIVING CONDITIONS



92%

of men in rural areas evaluate their water conditions as bad

63%

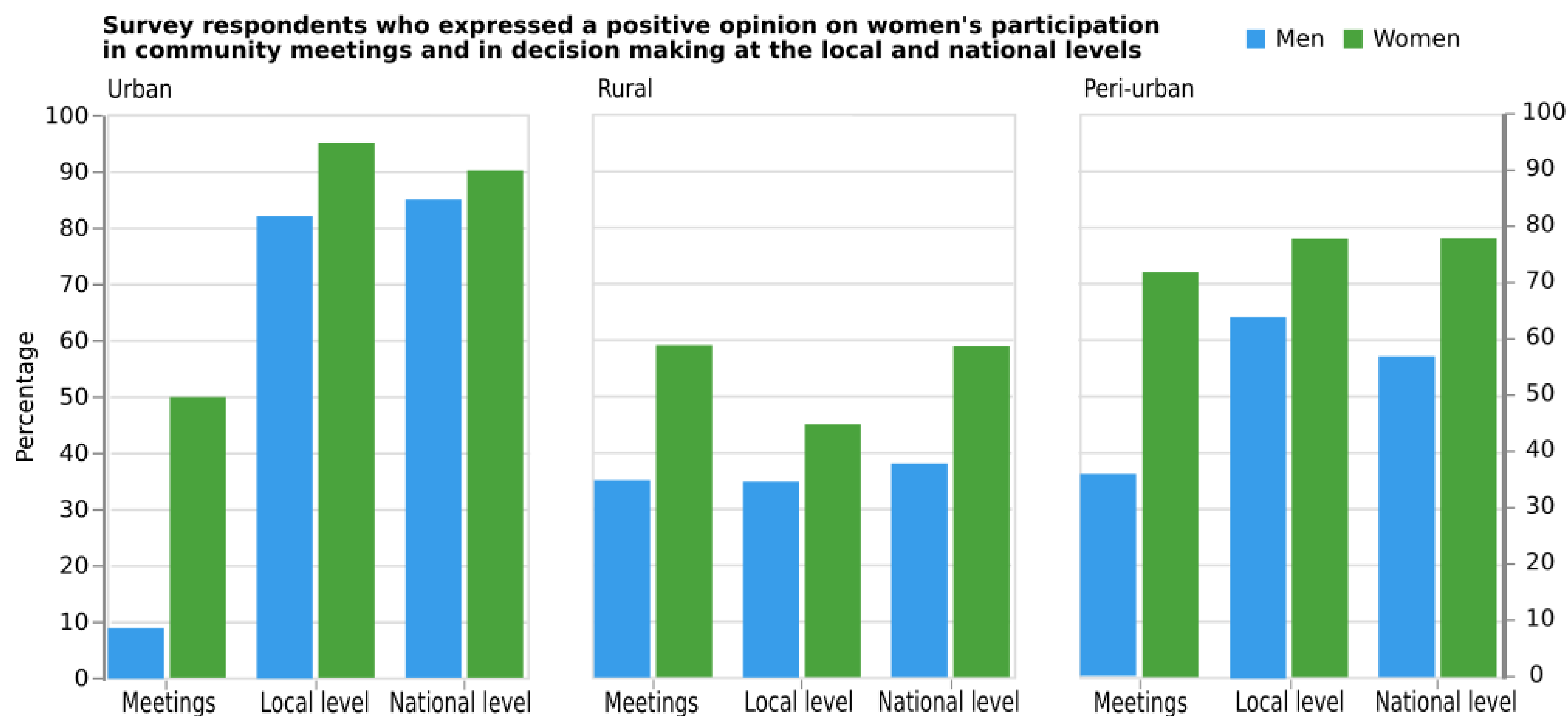
of women in peri-urban areas describe their sanitation conditions as bad



EcoSan toilets in Albania



DECISION-MAKING



The country has made progress in including women in decision-making on the national level. According to the country's Institute of Statistics, the parliament has become more diverse and gender inclusive throughout the years, with a 50% increase in women parliamentarians from 2009 to 2016. Additionally, 46.6% of the incumbent cabinet is made up of women ministers.

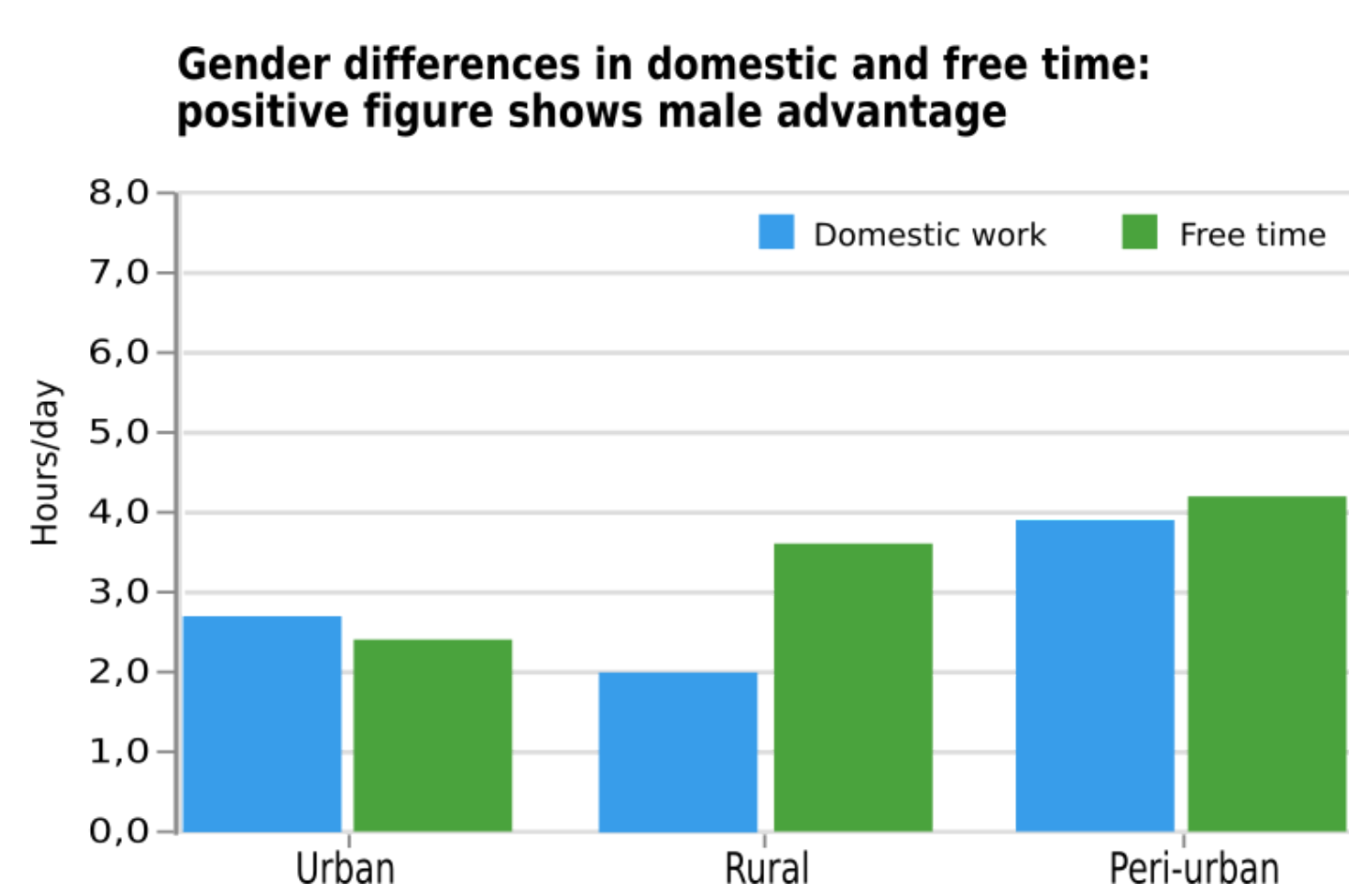
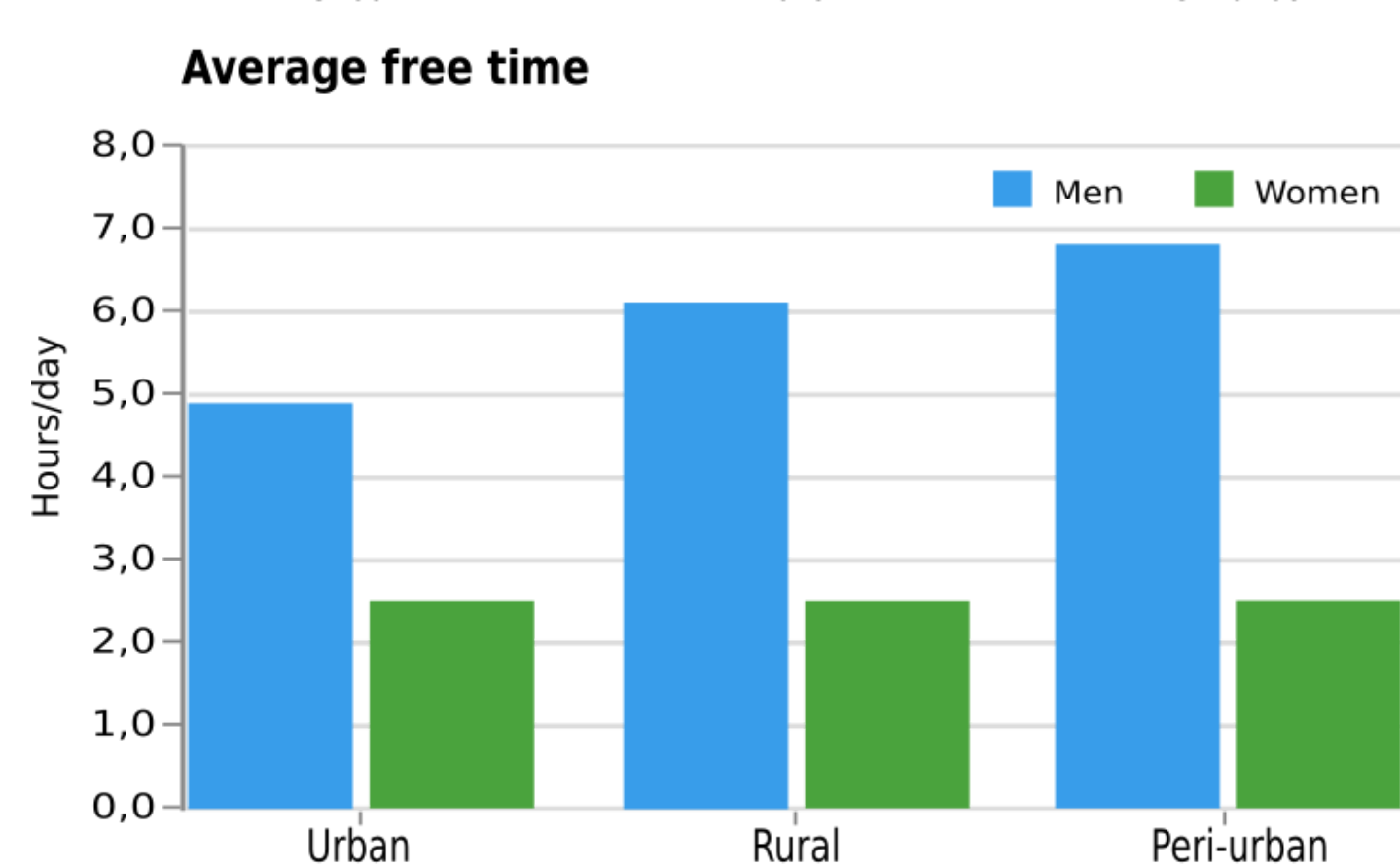
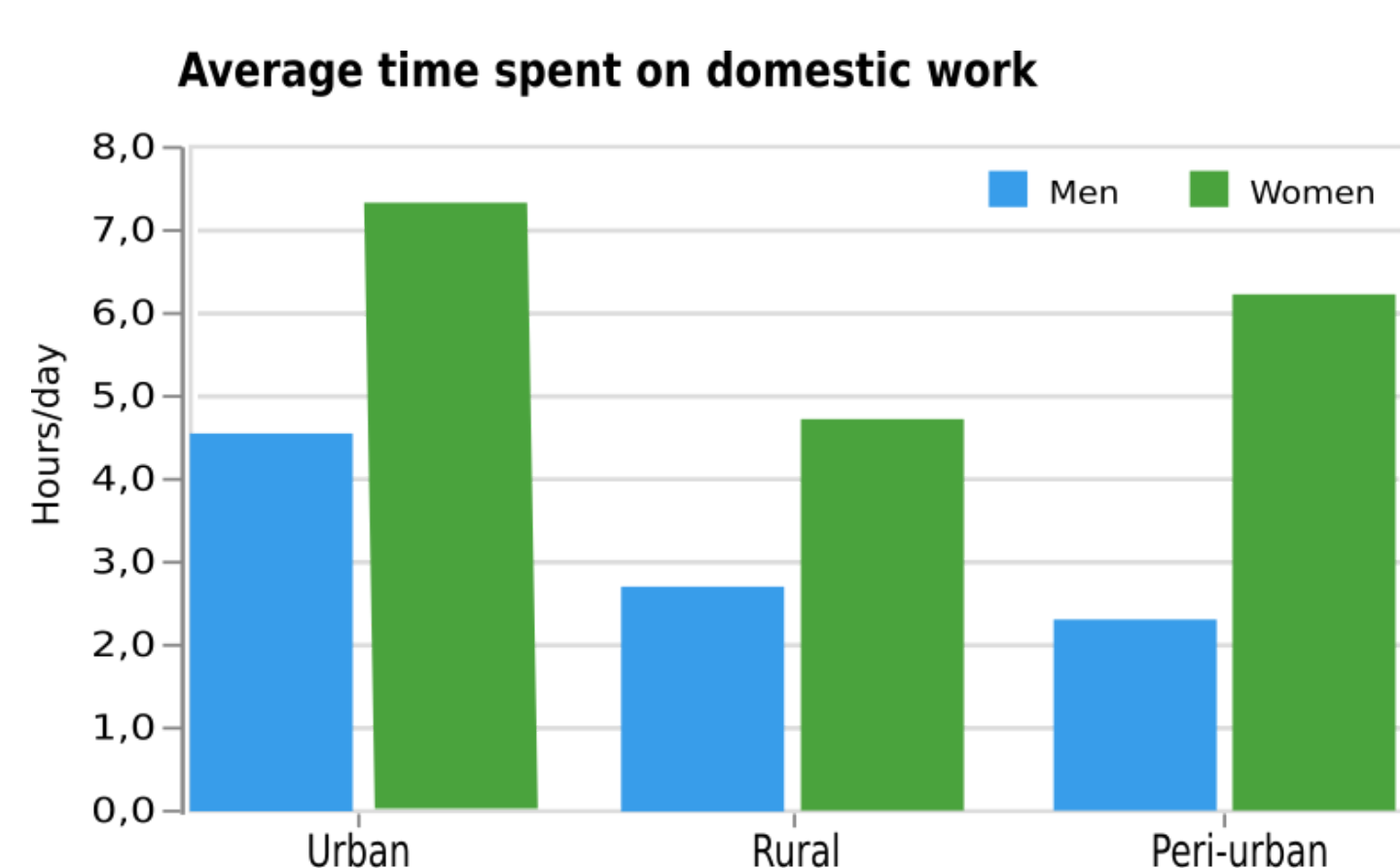


Workshop in a Roma community





UNPAID CARE



4.2h

In peri-urban areas, every day, women spend 4.2 hours less than men on leisure activities, and 3.9 hours more than men on domestic work.

3.6h

In rural areas, women spend 3.6 hours less than men on leisure activities, and 2 hours more than men on domestic work.

2.4h

In urban areas, women spend 2.4 hours less than men on leisure activities, and 2.7 hours more than men on domestic work.

This situation arises as a result of the patriarchal mentality and gender norms which demand that women, besides work, should also hold the burden of farm- and housework, food preparation (they make bread, cheese, yoghurt, etc.), caring and teaching the children, while men are expected to provide income to the family.



Woman standing next to buckets full of water



INADEQUATE HYGIENE

Water scarcity burdens families, as well as institutions and schools. Children often avoid using school toilets because of inadequate hygiene. This results not only from a lack of water but also from lack of maintenance- schools lack toilet paper, soap, towels. and waste bins. Additionally, school toilets are sometimes even shut down, as a result of poor hygienic conditions. This situation is particularly problematic for girls and women, who need hygienic sanitary conditions and privacy whilst menstruating. Consequently, many girls are left with no choice but to miss school during their period.

