Addressing Gender Based Violence

Movement of beneficiaries has significantly intensified with the improved weather conditions. Although the number of newly identified GBV cases has considerably risen in May, high turnover and survivors’ short stay in TRCs contributed to a decrease in number of followed up cases, posing a challenge in navigating case management and provision of services.

GBV is a risk faced by all persons on the move, including men. In light of the increased reporting of GBV against adolescents and men, especially from Somalia, UNFPA in coordination with other humanitarian agencies ensured that survivors were provided with a full scope of supportive services in a safe and protective environment.
Humanitarian response in Bosnia and Herzegovina: supporting women and youth

May 2021

Access to sexual and reproductive health services

- Pregnancy is a period of increased vulnerability for women on the move. In May, UNFPA SRH specialists reported an increase of pregnant women supported with UNFPA SRH services. However, UNFPA remains concerned for the wellbeing of migrant pregnant women opting to live in substandard informal shelters with limited or no access to quality care. Pregnant women returning from onward movement are in dire need of medical assistance and PSS services due to exhaustion, poor nutrition and chronic stress.

- Many migrant and refugee adolescents and young men lack adequate knowledge about Sexually Transmitted Diseases, and often lack understanding of the different means of transmission, prevention and available treatments. Throughout May, SRH sessions within UNFPA’s Boys and Young Men centers were aimed at increasing awareness on STIs, risky sexual behaviors and prevention.

Informal education and empowerment services

- Migrants are faced with numerous difficulties during onward movements, which consequently increase tendencies to resort to substance abuse as a form of coping mechanism. Vulnerability is additionally exacerbated by poor knowledge on dangers of substance abuse and available supportive services. In May, UNFPA’s educational sessions focused on addressing issues of substance abuse, hygiene, interpersonal relationships and managing complex emotions.

- UNFPA Women and Girls Centers nurture and celebrate migrant women and girls’ cultural and traditional diversities, incorporating music as a powerful tool to encourage cohesion and composure. UNFPA’s staff encourage creativity through using traditional musical instruments such as the darbuka. Beneficiaries are able to channel their feelings and decompress through music.

Fast facts

- 7000 Estimated migrant/refugee population in BiH
- 3 UNFPA Woman and Girls Centers
- 4 UNFPA Boys and Young Men Centers
- 14 Women headed households
- 163 Women and girls at risk of violence
- 3 LGBTIQ persons supported
Teen’s Club was regularly held in TRC Usivak, encouraging empowerment of adolescent girls through addressing various age-appropriate topics.

The Boys’ Voice
Four Boys’ Voice meetings were held with boys’ representative, enabling active participation in identifying key gaps and suggesting improvement methods in TRC Usivak.

GBV trainings for beneficiaries were held with aim to raise awareness on the importance of respecting human rights and achieving gender equality. The trainings were attended by 29 males and females reporting gender inequality and divided gender roles in the country of origin.

Managing Gender-based Violence in Emergencies training was held for 35 humanitarian workers in Sarajevo Canton.