

Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) widens the possibilities for women and young people to lead healthy and productive lives

## UNFPA in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Since its opening in 1995, UNFPA BiH has been working on improving sexual and reproductive health and rights, empowerment of women, advancement of gender equality and advocating for the quality population data to be used for the development policies and strategies.

With human rights and gender equality at the core of all interventions, the UNFPA supports progress towards: (a) accessible, affordable, high-quality, integrated sexual and reproductive health services; (b) strong accountability to eliminate all forms of discrimination; (c) empowered marginalized groups, with an emphasis on women, adolescents and youth (particularly girls); and (d) policies that strongly promote human rights. Achievement of these goals includes advocacy, policy dialogue and advice, capacity building, provision of data and evidence for policy development and knowledge management.

## Partnerships

UNFPA builds on achievements in health, education and other social sectors, creating strategic links and partnerships with other UN agencies, the European Union, and relevant donor initiatives. Together with implementing partners, UNFPA aims at institutionalizing strategic and sustainable measures to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, to promote gender equality, endorse universal access to sexual and reproductive health services for youth, and facilitate development of population policies.

UNFPA seeks to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

Because everyone counts!

POPULATION	1985	2013
Total population (thousands)	4 322	3 829
Annual growth rate (percentage)	1.06	-0.14
Population under age 15 (percentage)	25	16
Population aged 60 or over (percentage)	9	21
Total Fertility (children per woman)*	2.0	1.3
Life expectancy at birth (Males)	67.8	73.7
Life expectancy at birth (Females)	73.4	78.8

Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH	1990	2012
Births attended by skilled health personnel, %	97.4 1991	99.9
Maternal deaths per 100,000 live births	19	8 2013
Abortion rate per 1,000 live births	na	na
Antenatal care at least 1 visit, % ^	na	87
Antenatal care at least 4 visits, % ^	na	84.2
Unmet need for family planning, % ^	na	9
Contraceptive prevalence rate, all, % ^	47.5 2000	45.8

Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2011-2012, WHO data

YOUTH	1990	2012
Comprehensive knowledge about HIV prevention amongst women aged 15-24 years	na	47.6
Comprehensive knowledge about HIV prevention amongst men aged 15-24 years	na	47.4
Adolescent birth rate (women aged 15-19 years) per 1,000	na	8

Source # Multiple indicator Cluster Survey 2011-2012

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Bosnia and Herzegovina UNFPA Country Office: Zmajica od Bosne bb, 71000 Sarajevo, BiH  
 T: +387 33 239 570 F: +387 33 552 330 E-mail: bosnia-herzegovina.office@unfpa.org  
 www.unfpa.ba



Delivering  
 for Women and  
 Young People  
 in Bosnia and Herzegovina



## Sexual and Reproductive Health

UNFPA's strong belief is that all citizens have the right to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information and necessary means to do so.

UNFPA supports strengthening of capacities of governments to provide integrated sexual and reproductive health services, with a focus on vulnerable populations. The interventions attempt to lessen inequities in accessing high-quality reproductive health services, including maternal health and family planning.

UNFPA encourages setting up policies and frameworks for quality healthcare standards for all. Furthermore, UNFPA supports strengthening capacities of healthcare workers to deliver up-to-date sexual and reproductive health information and services and reduce maternal mortality rates. At the same time, UNFPA supports initiatives to increase modern contraceptives availability and use, and additionally to increase knowledge of the population on sexual and reproductive health and rights. Furthermore, UNFPA is contributing to the integration of sexual and reproductive health needs in the emergency preparedness plan.

## Youth

A safe, healthy and successful transition from adolescence to adulthood is the right of every child, but often that decade of life is filled with challenges that slow adolescents' rights to be educated, healthy, skilled, and empowered.

UNFPA works with the authorities to include the needs of the adolescents and youth in the development of sexual and reproductive health and rights-related policies and strategies on youth, with a focus on disadvantaged groups. UNFPA assists in the creation of advocacy platforms to promote investment in marginalized adolescents and youth. Partnering with other institutions and relevant stakeholders, UNFPA is working on strengthening of youth peer education, as well as the development and revision of teaching content on life skills and comprehensive sexuality education for schools. By the provision of evidence on reproductive health needs of youth, UNFPA is addressing the issue of early marriage and adolescent pregnancies.

## Gender Equality

Gender equality is a basic prerequisite for respect of human rights. Women are entitled to live in dignity and in freedom from want and from fear. Empowerment of women is a powerful tool for development, reduction of poverty, improvement of health outcomes and productivity of families.

To address the issue of high prevalence rate of violence against women and girls in BiH, UNFPA is helping communities understand and challenge social norms that create inequalities between women and men. In line with that, UNFPA advocates for new approaches to gender roles of men and women, overcoming the violent patterns of behavior. In addition to that, UNFPA provides evidence and analysis of the causes and effects of gender-based violence on women and girls, as well as strengthening the capacity of relevant institutions to address gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence.

## Population and Development

Integrating population data into national policies and strategies is the key to eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development. Population dynamics such as fertility, mortality, age structure, migration and urbanization, influence every aspect of human, social and economic development.

UNFPA in Bosnia and Herzegovina provides support to the governmental institutions to strengthen capacities for population data collection, analysis and distribution in order to create population policies. UNFPA also assists governmental authorities and civil society to produce comprehensive programmes in line with the Madrid International Plan of Action on Aging and promote intergenerational solidarity.