

# Humanitarian response in Bosnia and Herzegovina: supporting women and youth



## MONTHLY OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW IN NUMBERS APRIL - MAY - JUNE 2023

### MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

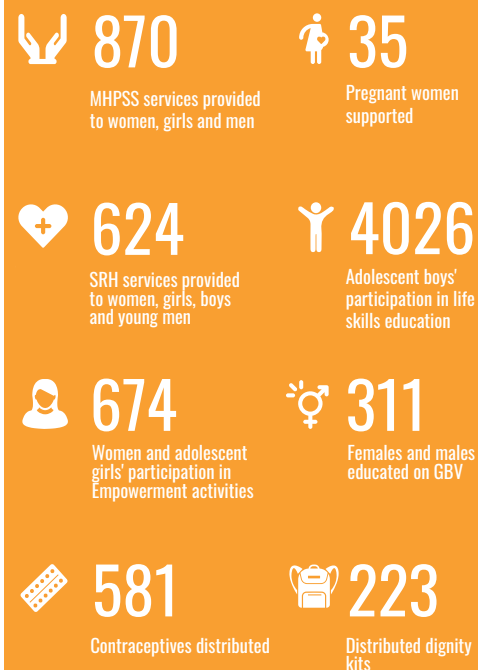
Report No. 24



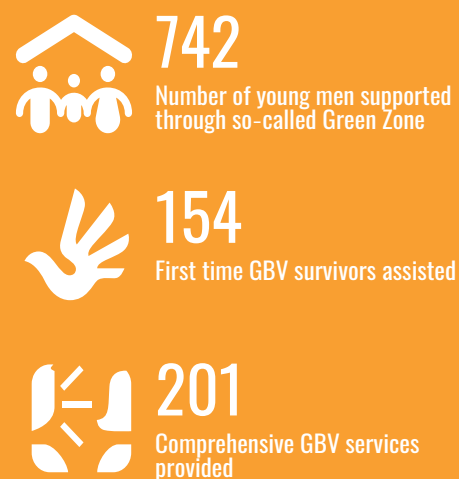
The May floods that hit Una Sana Canton, not only had a devastating effect on communities, but also put additional challenge and pressure on vulnerable women and girls to reach essential services, including GBV support and hygiene supplies. In Bihac, UNFPA and Red Cross Bihac joined forces, prepared and distributed Dignity kits containing essential hygiene items for 150 vulnerable women and girls.

UNFPA actively participated in the Third Sarajevo Migration Dialogue, a two-day conference jointly organized by the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, and facilitated by IOM. The conference featured the adoption of the Action Plan on Sustainable Migratory Governance, which supports the EU's and WB partners' collaborative efforts to establish a comprehensive approach to managing diverse migratory flows.

UNFPA with the help of the EU supported the Urological ward in the Cantonal Hospital in Bihac with bedding and sleepwear helping enhance the quality of care and services for the local community and people at risk including refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers receiving assistance in this ward.



**UNFPA works tirelessly to bring awareness to the issue of GBV focusing on adolescent boys. In the presence of assigned legal guardians, UNFPA held a workshop with Adolescent boys raising awareness to prevent and combat GBV**



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## Participation and Empowerment oriented assistance



### Radj's Story

Radj, a young man, has dedicated his full attention on the words spoken by UNFPA's sexual and reproductive health educator, his eyes locked on the whiteboard and focus fully dedicated to the topic, so not one word gets lost, or misunderstood.

For the first time, Radj has had the opportunity to take part in a sexual and reproductive health group educational session.

*"In my country, we do not talk openly about these things, and we certainly don't learn about them in school."*

Like so many refugee and migrant young men, Radj is at risk of negative sexual and reproductive health outcomes due to lack of SRH services, or socio-cultural factors that can obstruct knowledge and impede access to healthcare in the countries of origin, or during onward movement.

*"These sessions are really useful and helpful. Now I have better understanding on the importance of maintaining my health, I feel safe and encouraged to talk to the doctor."*

With immense EU support, UNFPA in Bosnia and Herzegovina works with local health care centers and SRH experts to ensure that refugee and migrant populations, both male and female, have access to safe and gender-sensitive sexual and reproductive health services, knowledge and rights.



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In June, UNFPA organized and chaired the GBV working group in Una Sana Canton to ensure humanitarian partners' coordinated actions in prevention and mitigation of GBV and accountability to persons at risk or survivors of GBV. At the working group, participants discussed current trends, challenges, referral mechanisms and GBV risk assessment of persons who underwent the readmission process, resulting in identification of next steps in addressing these topics.

In TRC Usivak, in preparation of Menstrual Hygiene Day, a joint group activity was held together with adolescent girls and UNFPA Youth Volunteers from the local community during which they exchanged stories, differences and similarities on how menstruation is experienced in different cultures. Also, the event "Ciklus" was held on the occasion of World Menstrual Hygiene Day (May 28th) in Sarajevo during which women from the refugee and migrant population talked about the challenges of menstruation during movement and emphasized the importance of SRH services provided by UNFPA with EU support.



**12168\***  
Number of total arrivals in 2023\*



**195**  
Women headed households



**18**  
LGBTQ+ persons supported



**2**  
UNFPA Women and Girls Centers



**3**  
UNFPA Boys and Young Men Centers

## Fast facts

UNFPA and Red Cross FBiH empowered young men in TRC Blazuj through theoretical-practical training in the field of responding and providing First Aid in life-threatening situations.

UNFPA welcomed UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Ingrid McDonald to its Women and Girls Center in TRC Borici and presented its work with vulnerable populations on the move in Bosnia and Herzegovina, also enabling discussion regarding the conditions and needs that women and girls have.



\* Interagency Weekly Update (19 - 25 June 2023)

## DONORS

UNFPA BiH IS GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING DONORS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

European Union, Basque Government, Austrian Development Agency and UNFPA Humanitarian Action Fund



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*EU and UNFPA supported adolescent girls through the Teen's Club group PSS sessions, helping strengthen capacities and reduce risk to GBV.*