

MONTHLY OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW IN NUMBERS | AUGUST 2022

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

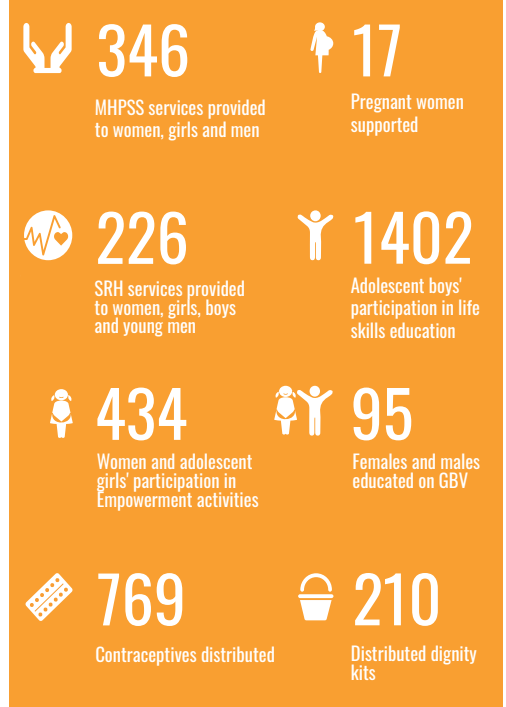
Report No. 18



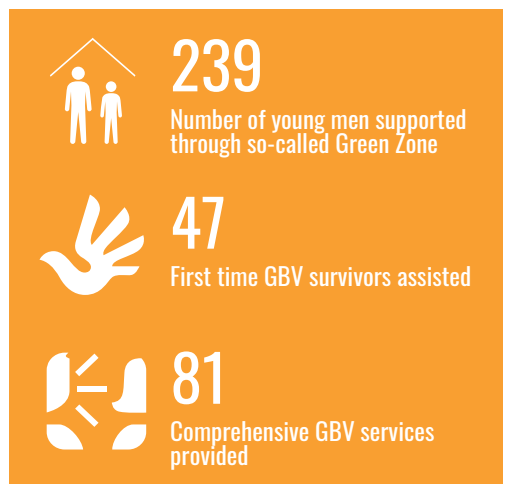
Pictured: Raising awareness on the dangers of Gender Based Violence (GBV) through group educational sessions @ UNFPA in TRC Usivak

In August, majority of newly identified Gender-Based Violence (GBV) cases were in the female population of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Bosnia and Herzegovina, confirming that women and girls are, in general, disproportionately affected by GBV. Even though the reported cases of violence had occurred either in the country of origin or during movement, nonetheless, the need to ensure stability in gender-sensitive post-trauma care remains strong. Therefore, UNFPA and EU, in coordination with Service for Foreigners' Affairs BiH and local Primary Health Centers ensured that survivors' needs for protection-oriented services were adequately met, including referrals for sexual and reproductive health care, case management within centers, mental health services and preventive action through weekly GBV educational workshops with vulnerable populations and survivors.

UNFPA held a GBV Working Group meeting for Una-Sana Canton with 18 participants, including from UN, INGO, NGO and SFA. During the meeting, the current situation concerning GBV was jointly reviewed through an inter-agency approach. Participants exchanged important information regarding current challenges within centers and in outreach locations and engaged in a fruitful discussion. The need for revision of referral mechanisms in cases of violence against unaccompanied children as well as children within families was observed, and actors from the Child Protection sector will submit revised information.



UNFPA in cooperation with Centre for Social Welfare Bihac commenced with implementation of individual MHPSS sessions for unaccompanied adolescent girls in order to improve mental health and well-being of this extremely sensitive category.



August 2022

Participation and Empowerment oriented assistance



Nima's Story

"I'm full of anger..."

Nima* takes a deep breath and begins to tell her story. For her, moments of happiness are small recollections of a life she once lived, scattered to pieces like jigsaw puzzles.

Back home, life was all but easy. Not knowing where the next meal would come from or if she would make it to see another day was the harsh reality she had to face every single day. Poverty coupled with uncertainty and fear took a heavy toll on Nima's psychological health, life and marriage.

"In my country, sessions with a psychologist are very expensive and not everyone can afford them. Unfortunately."

Nima, a GBV survivor herself, has gone through a harrowing process of healing and forgiveness. However, help was not always available, and often seeking help in her country of origin would succumb a person to a wreath of stigma and isolation by the community.

With the help of EU, UNFPA supports vulnerable women and girls like Nima with quality mental health and psychosocial support services in the form of individual and group sessions, as well as crises interventions and referrals for psychiatric care.

"Sessions with a psychologist are very important to me, I learned to control my anger, to express my emotions and to deal with them."

At the Women and Girls Center Nima is able to seek adequate guidance and support in helping turn her anger and anxiety into self-discovery and empowerment. By reaching adequate help, she is able to overcome stigma and help encourage other women to seek psychological support.

"I'm glad when I have someone to share my story and how I'm feeling without making my family sad."

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



August 2022



UNFPA, in joint cooperation with Caritas and IOM, implemented "Cinema day", screening a movie for adolescents in TRC Usivak. Following the good practice and positive feedback from adolescent boys, it is planned to introduce the above as a regular practice.

Just like women and girls, boys and young men also have specific needs for sexual and reproductive health services. UNFPA in cooperation with local Primary Health Centers ensured that sexual and reproductive health services are accessible to the affected male population. UNFPA supported male residents with urological consultations, referrals, in-depth examinations and follow-up care.



 **2182**
Estimated migrant/refugee population in BiH

 **67**
Women headed households

 **13**
LGBTQI+ persons supported

 **2**
UNFPA Women and Girls Centers

 **3**
UNFPA Boys and Young Men Centers

Fast facts

In TRC Lipa, Service for Foreigners' Affairs and UNFPA reached a joint agreement on establishment of a protection sensitive accommodation capacity, so called "Green zone", intended for the accommodation of GBV survivors and young adults categorized as a vulnerable category.

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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UNFPA empowerment sessions contributed to improvement of literacy amongst women helping to bolster womens' personal capacities and inclusion in decision making processes.

