

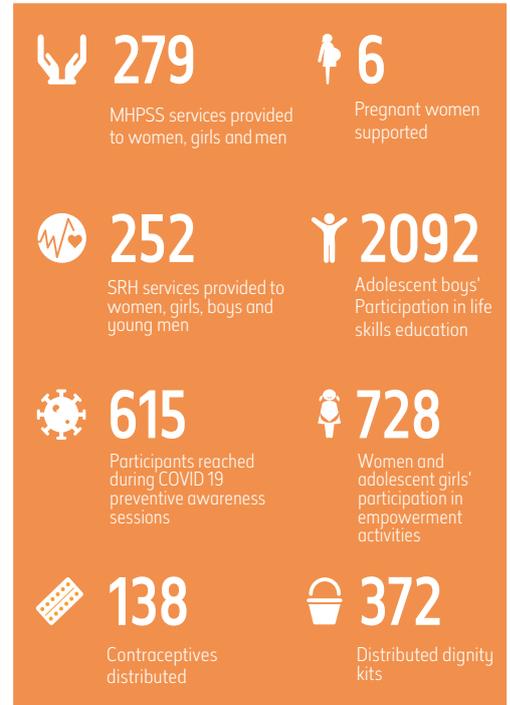
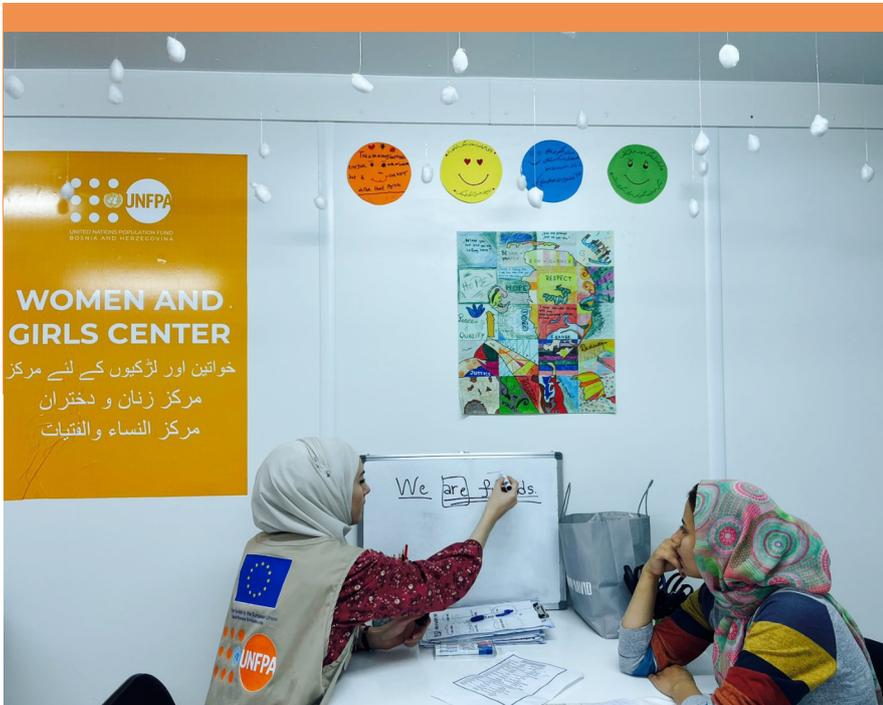
# Humanitarian response in Bosnia and Herzegovina: supporting women and youth



## MONTHLY OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW IN NUMBERS DECEMBER 2021

### MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

Report No. 10



### ADDRESSING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

UNFPA aims to create opportunities where women's voices can be heard and amplified, especially on issues directly affecting them. To foster inclusive participation of women and girls in decision making processes, throughout December, UNFPA has held Women Committee meetings in Una Sana Canton and Canton Sarajevo, enabling Committee participants to give service providers valuable guidance on how services within UNFPA centres can be adjusted and enhanced to meet their actual needs.

Prevention of Gender-based violence is at the heart of UNFPA's response in the mixed-migration context. Engaging refugee and migrant men and adolescent boys in Gender Based Violence awareness raising and educational sessions is a positive step forward towards changing perceptions of harmful gender norms. UNFPA has continued its efforts in tackling violence through Gender Based Violence support groups and training for male residents of Temporary Reception Centers

**UNFPA MHPSS experts implemented 151 individual sessions with women and girls, working to improve their general mental state, eliminate accompanying symptoms and minimise psychosomatic disorders.**



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December 2021

## Participation and Empowerment oriented assistance



*\*Names have been changed for protection of survivors' identity*

### Zahi and Yuusuf's story

The story of two boys from Somalia goes far back to their early childhood. Zahi and Yuusuf have known each other since they were little boys. A few vague memories from their childhood is all they can recall now. Children should be spared of the hardships and problems adults have to face, As the boys ventured into their teenage years, their lives took an unfortunate turn. The political turmoil in their country and the daunting expectation to join the army profoundly affected many young boys alike.

*"The few happy memories are of our parents & the farm they worked on. Although we were only children, we both did our best to help with what we could to help our parents provide food for our brothers and sisters.."*

Fleeing violence and possible death, the boys started their journey each carrying a small suitcase filled with hopes and dreams, and just a few personal belongings. Upon reaching safe ground, they hoped to be able to pursue an education and find work to support their families. However, this dream is still far from reach due to constant movement. Within the Boys and Young Men centres, Zahi and Yuusuf are assisted by the UNFPA teams with various services helping them adjust to their new circumstances and rebuild their lives. alike.

*"Due to our fight for freedom of choice, we found ourselves as targets of a powerful extremist group, with only one way to survive = leave our homeland. Now we are here in TRC Blazuj, feeling safe and able to rebuild our lives and think about the future.."*

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Dangers related to unexploded mines and traffic accidents are still a precarious reality for people living and moving through Bosnia and Herzegovina. Being vigilant about the dangers and proper conduct is instrumental in keeping safe. UNFPA and Red Cross work with residents of Temporary Reception Centers to educate on the dangers of unexploded mines, and importance of proper pedestrian conduct in order to save lives and avoid accidents.

*“We want to be more educated in this field, because with this knowledge we are more aware of cultural differences and better understand them”*

- Migrants & refugees expressed the desire for educations of this type



2400

Estimated migrant/refugee population in BiH



15

Women headed households



2

LGBTQI persons supported



167

Women and girls at risk of violence



3

UNFPA Woman and Girls Centers



3

UNFPA Boys and Young Men Centers

## Fast facts

Physical, psychological harm and social stigma is a debilitating everyday reality for male GBV survivors. UNFPA continuously assesses the needs of male GBV survivors in order to adapt its response accordingly. UNFPA has commenced with provision of Mental Health and Psycho-social expert services within its Boys and Young Men Centre in Temporary Reception Center Blazuj. Provision of specific Mental Health and Psycho-social services to GBV survivors will alleviate suffering and mitigate men and adolescent boys' risk of re-experiencing GBV.



### DONORS

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

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



#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Alma Pezerovic, UNFPA GBViE Project Manager | [pezerovic@unfpa.org](mailto:pezerovic@unfpa.org) | +38761940286

The United Nations Population Fund | Bosnia and Herzegovina | [ba.unfpa.org](http://ba.unfpa.org)