

Humanitarian response in Bosnia and Herzegovina: supporting women and youth



MONTHLY OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW IN NUMBERS JANUARY 2022

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

Report No. 11



ADDRESSING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

The first step to preventively act to violence is to establish learning opportunities for populations who stand at increased risk of experiencing various forms of violence. In the course of January, UNFPA has organised a series of educational GBV sessions with 151 male and female residents of reception facilities in Una Sana and Canton Sarajevo, working to reach a better understanding among participants as to what is GBV, what roles we have as individuals in preventing and responding to GBV and who are key humanitarian and law enforcement actors able to provide GBV assistance.

In addition, UNFPA in joint coordination with SFA and IOM throughout January continuously provided much needed assistance to 21 vulnerable male residents and GBV survivors accommodated in the "Green zone" in TRC Blazuj.

Movement and GBV trauma have degrading mental health implications. UNFPA MHPSS experts worked hard to respond to crises situations where suicidal tendencies were articulated by persons in dire distress.



January 2022

Participation and Empowerment oriented assistance



Odile's story

Originally from a Central African country, Odile starts her story with a recollection of a happy childhood she shared with her five siblings. It was always clear whose duty something was, and there was no difference between boys and girls - we were all treated equally. In her early twenties, she started working on a farm, until she married in her early thirties and gave birth to three wonderful children. The turbulent political situation in her home country made Odile confront many dangers due to the raging conflicts, she was even hesitant about sending her children to school, but she put their education and future first. One tragic day a group from the opposing party set off an explosion at the school Odile's children attended, her daughter was killed in the explosion. This event devastated Odile, had to face another difficult decision- to leave her home and seek safety. It is never easy leaving your family and homeland behind, the feeling of nostalgia will always follow wherever you go.

"I often wonder who I am... in a foreign country, without my loved ones, a traveler without a destination, with only one wish safety and freedom."

From her first visit to UNFPA's Women and Girls Centre in TRC Usivak, Odile has been a beneficiary of a plethora of services offered within the center. She says that she has found a compassion & understanding for her difficulties through communication with the team, most of all the psychologists and psychotherapists. She enthusiastically seized the opportunities to finally learn the things she loves, at her own pace. Odile's favorite activities are exercise sessions and dance activities, which present an outlet for her traumatic experiences and worrisome thoughts.

"It is through movement I can best express and release all the emotions I feel and keep bottled up inside of me."

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Substance and alcohol abuse are just one of the reasons for which affected populations seek support and guidance within the UNFPA centers. UNFPA MHPSS experts closely work with individuals and groups to bolster coping mechanisms which help survivors face daily challenges with a sense of greater ease. In addition, UNFPA SRH experts, through group and individual sessions helped increase participants understand of how substance/alcohol abuse affects risky sexual behaviours.

"We can read many books on all topics, but when you meet people in person and talk to them first hand, you get more than just information - great life experience as well"

- 34 year old man from Gambia



2400

Estimated migrant/refugee population in BiH



14

Women headed households



7

LGBTQI persons supported



3

UNFPA Woman and Girls Centers



4

UNFPA Boys and Young Men Centers

Fast facts

Collective accommodation, constant movement and an uncertain future can have devastating psychological consequences on adolescent girls. UNFPA understands that ensuring services and opportunities for vulnerable younger populations can have a significant positive effect as they leap into adulthood. In January, UNFPA's Teen club was held with the aim of providing a platform for adolescent girls to share their concerns, express their needs and build peer support networks helping facilitate their personal and social growth in these challenging times.

"I feel shy and find it hard to say what I think and feel. Before, I did not have many opportunities to communicate with my peers. It seems to me that I grew up too fast but I failed to learn how to communicate with others."

- 15 year old girl from Iraq



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 | +38761940286

The United Nations Population Fund | Bosnia and Herzegovina | ba.unfpa.org