

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



## MONTHLY OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW IN NUMBERS

July - August - September 2023

### MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

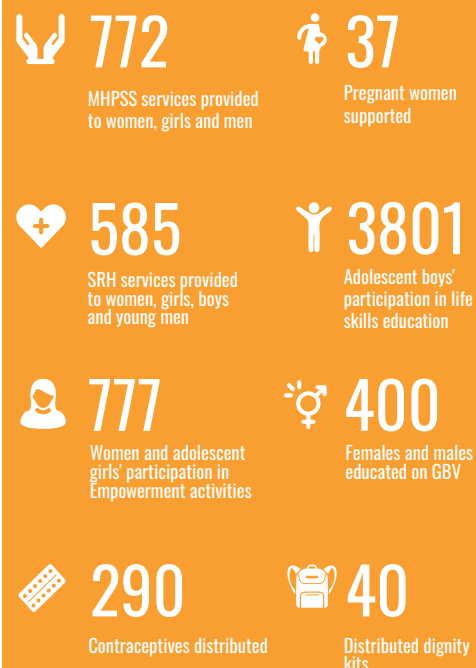
Report No. 25



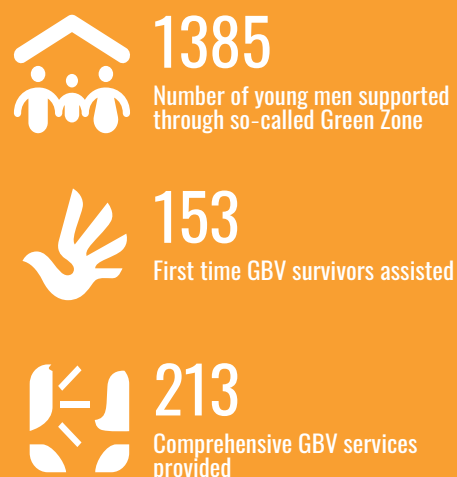
The successful partnership between the Service for Foreigners' Affairs BiH (SFA) and UNFPA contributed to the improvement of GBV prevention and response mechanisms and enhanced the quality of GBV services for survivors and vulnerable residents of Temporary Reception Centers in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In August, 21 SFA personnel from TRC Lipa underwent GBV training sessions organized and held by UNFPA, strengthening capacities and knowledge on standard operating procedures, referral pathways and GBV case management.

UNFPA took an active role during the preparatory meetings for the first Transition meeting to be held by the EU Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina, UN agencies and relevant state ministries in the direction of strengthening the process of transition to state-owned response.

Strengthening TRC management through the transfer of good practices UNFPA and SFA established the Green Zone Council in TRC Lipa, ensuring that young male residents have a platform where they can actively participate and provide insight into current challenges, as well as as possible solutions.



**UNFPA held the GBV Working Group for Canton Sarajevo with 14 representatives of partner organizations helping promote the available support services to GBV survivors and groups at risk, as well as strengthening a comprehensive and coordinated approach to GBV in the mixed-migration context in BiH.**

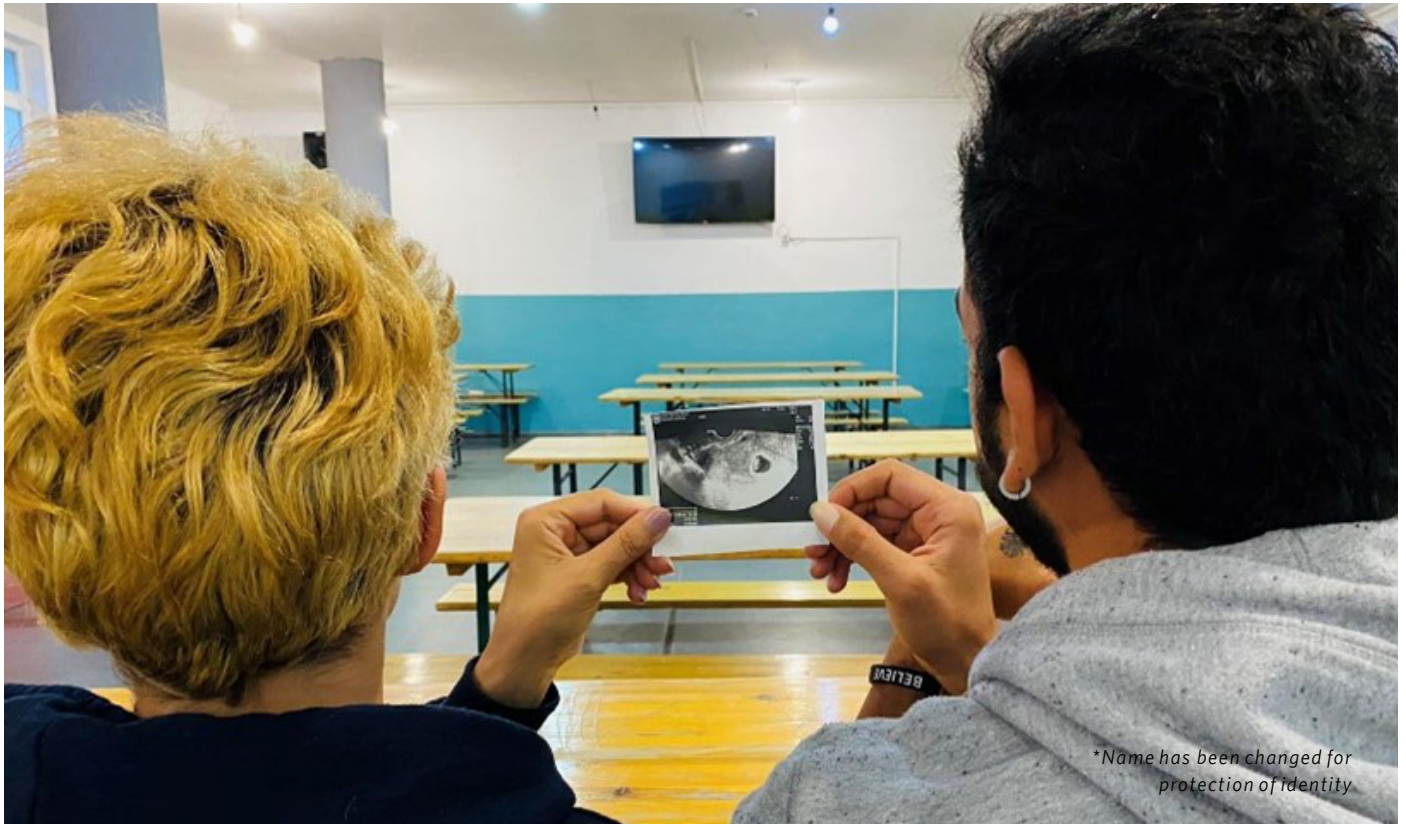


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## Comprehensive SRH support through family planning and clinical examination



### Zaina and Rashid's Story

Zaina and Rashid glare with excitement and pride at the first ultrasound image of their baby, taken during an examination appointment at the local health center.

This is Zaina's first pregnancy, and she couldn't be happier to take on this new role in her life. However, challenges and hardships that come with life on the move can bring significant risks to both mother and baby.

*"I had concerns about my pregnancy in this period of our lives, but our worries have eased now that we know that everything is fine with our baby."*

Zaina, like many pregnant women on the move, had grave concerns about maintaining a healthy pregnancy during movement. With EU support, UNFPA is able to ensure that pregnant woman and their partners are able to access crucial information, routine examinations, and prenatal care, helping women maintain a healthy pregnancy during their stay in TRCs in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

*"Family planning education provided us with knowledge that we did not have before and which we very much need for keeping the pregnancy in the best order" - says Rashid.*

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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Women and girls on the move stand at heightened risk of gender-based violence (GBV) and have greater protection needs. With EU support, UNFPA Safe spaces provided a caring and inclusive environment for women and girls to learn about gender equality and human rights, empowering them to live a happy and healthy life free from violence.

A significant increase in arrivals and high turnover rate continued to be reported within TRCs in BiH from July to September, with a recorded higher influx of adolescent girls, single women and single mothers. Upon their arrival to TRCs, most of them are with disturbed mental state and in need of mental health support. With EU support, UNFPA MHPSS experts were able to respond through specialized mental health services helping them live a happier life.



25174\*

Number of total arrivals in 2023\*



174

Women headed households



7

LGBTQI+ persons supported



2

UNFPA Women and Girls Centers



3

UNFPA Boys and Young Men Centers

## Fast facts

With EU support, UNFPA in cooperation with SRH experts from local health centers marked World Contraception Day educating and bringing awareness to refugee, migrant and asylum seeking women and girls, boys and young men on their SRH rights and freedom of choice with emphasis on family planning and proper use of contraception, empowering them to make independent and informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health.



Following the trend of increased arrivals of adolescent girls, UNFPA held several Teen's Club workshops, empowering girls to voice their needs, future life and professional plans, creating a more optimistic vision of the future.

The to-date hundredth Boys' voice meeting held in TRC Usivak proved a milestone in ensuring opportunities for advocacy by boys' representatives, regularly enabling presentation of the key challenges and proposals for improvements on behalf of their peers.

\* Interagency Coordination Meeting (26 October 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 continue to support mothers on the move with provision of Sexual and Reproductive Health services and information through trained health providers in Bihac and Sarajevo, helping them lead healthier lives with their families.*