Successful cooperation between the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and UNFPA was discussed during a bilateral meeting between the Minister of Security, Selmo Cikotić and UNFPA PSD Director, Arthur Erken. At the meeting, it was agreed on the importance of continuing good cooperation between MoS and UNFPA to ensure refugees, migrants and asylum seekers have access to crucial GBV services, including delivery of psychosocial support and SRH assistance.

UNFPA PSD Director Arthur Erken visited Temporary Reception Centre (TRC) Ušivak, Hadžići in Canton Sarajevo. During his visit to TRC Ušivak, he had the opportunity to meet UNFPA teams engaged within the UNFPA and EU supported centers, and learned of a range of contexts in which vulnerable women, girls and youth are cared for in regards to GBV, SRH and MHPSS. Mr. Erken praised the successful cooperation between the authorities, humanitarian agencies and donors for supporting persons on the move.

Jointly with SFA and IOM, UNFPA launched a joint action in order to improve living and hygiene conditions in the new protection sensitive accommodation, so called "Green zone". In the coming period, interior and exterior space improvement activities will be performed by the UNFPA team with support of young “Green zone” residents.
Maria’s Story

Maria* is HIV positive, seven months pregnant, and living proof of the tremendous power of will to survive - the illness, the poverty, the political turmoil that depleted her of her life.

For the past three months Maria has made the arduous journey alone. Forced to leave behind her husband, her work and her home, she had set off into the unknown, moving forward for the sake of her and her unborn baby’s life.

“What made this journey even more agonizing for me is the fact that I fled under immense dread and fear, as my life was under immediate danger. I have to keep surviving for my baby. If they find me, they will kill me.”

Maria says that she feels warmly welcomed in Bosnia and Herzegovina. “During my journey, I did not have access to medicines, or any form of support. Here I feel good, safe, supported and empowered. I am planning to seek asylum in Bosnia and Herzegovina.”

Maria is accommodated in a TRC for families in Bosnia and Herzegovina. With the support of EU and UNFPA, she is able to benefit from the many supportive services available within the Women and Girls Center, including regular PSS sessions with the psychotherapist and crucial SRH assistance with the gynaecologist, ensuring that she can enjoy a healthy pregnancy.

“I feel a great sense of relief after having the opportunity to speak with a gynaecologist and undergo gynaecological examinations. I am beyond happy that my baby is doing well, despite all hardships.”

“The Center has given me a different perspective on life and my possibilities. I am now aware that women can be respected, educated, as well as have the right to speak and choose. This is a place where I can just chill, have tea and relax.”
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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Humanitarian response in Bosnia and Herzegovina: supporting women and youth
June 2022

Thanks to EU support, residents of Temporary Reception Centers in Bosnia and Herzegovina were assisted with an array of sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning. UNFPA in cooperation with local health care institutions supported women and girls with first-time gynecological examinations and consultations, ensuring awareness raising on cervical diseases. In addition, pregnant women, including COVID-19 positive expecting women, continued to enjoy complete prenatal care and monitoring by SRH experts in coordination with local health institutions. Pregnant women continued to have access to skilled service providers and quality services helping them maintain a healthy pregnancy.

In cooperation and with the support of SFA, UNFPA organized a mini-football tournament for young male residents of Temporary Reception Center Lipa. UNFPA provided the tournament participants with trophies for the first three places and refreshments for all tournament participants.
Empowerment sessions have been shown as a significant tool for building a social support network for vulnerable women and girls. Throughout June, UNFPA and EU ensured that all women are able to participate in the many supportive empowerment activities, ensuring that no one is left behind.