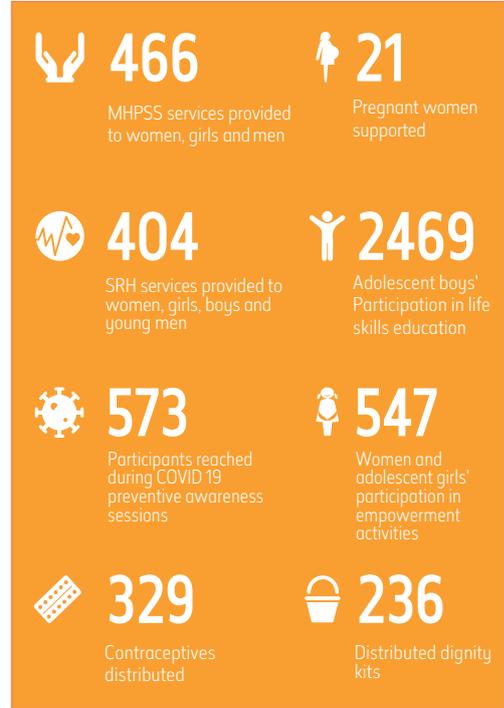
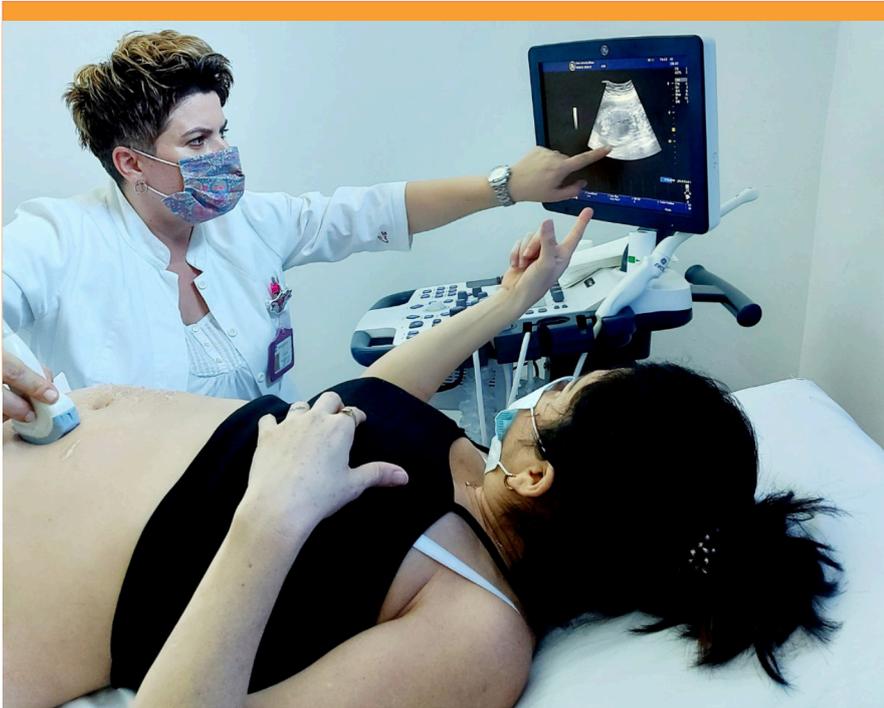


MONTHLY OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW IN NUMBERS MARCH 2022

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

Report No. 13



**ADDRESSING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

Throughout March, UNFPA teams assisted survivors who have experienced various forms of violence, including sexual violence, physical and psychological violence, forced marriage and Female Genital Mutilation. Recently, UNFPA has noticed an increasingly worrying trend of single women traveling unaccompanied, which increases their likelihood to experience physical and sexual violence, as well as exploitation. To meet the specific needs of this vulnerable group, UNFPA has adjusted its services and supports, affected populations were assisted through inclusion in peer support groups and empowerment workshops.

UNFPA in collaboration with SFA and IOM, increased accommodation capacities in TRC Blazuji's "Green zone" in accordance to observed needs. The additional increase will enable up to 30 young men to be sheltered in the zone, providing them to go about their daily duties with certainty of protection and vital services available at all times.

*With an influx of expecting mothers in Temporary Reception Centers, UNFPA teams & gynaecologists reacted to the needs for crucial services including gynaecological examinations, prenatal care, supplements, and consultations.*



March 2022

## Participation and Empowerment oriented assistance



### Faizah's story

Seeking refuge from constant blackmail and death threats in their home country, Faizah, a mother of five daughters, embarked on a journey which led her to the Temporary Reception Center Usivak. Although conflicts in the country were ultimately the reason the mother decided it was time to take her family to a better place, Faizah states she wanted to protect her daughters so they would not undergo a traumatic experience which marked her own childhood - female genital mutilation.

*"It's a common traditional practice, but I refuse to let my daughters go through that pain and trauma. Still, everyone around me condemned me for it, even my closest family members."*

Her life changed significantly the moment she gave birth to her last daughter, who was diagnosed with autism. Faizah says ever since then she only lives for her daughter. Through this journey, Faizah realized how insensitive and unfamiliar people are with autism. However, Faizah's hope has been somewhat restored upon arriving to the Women and Girls Center in Usivak with her daughters. Through individual psycho-therapeutic work the mother gained insight into things she wasn't aware of before - how strong she really is, mentally and physically.

*"This is the first place I came to, when I arrived at the Temporary Reception Center. You were the first to welcome me, the first to listen to my story, and the first to give me the opportunity to release my emotions, which had accumulated over time. With you, I feel like I am with my family, the constant care for us and the psychological support I receive here help me make difficult moments a little easier, to cope more easily with the decision I made regarding this journey and to increase my hope for a better future."*

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



March 2022



Through Weekly meetings with Boys' representatives continuous advocacy of requests and struggles of this specific group and the importance of respecting diverse national cultures, non-violent communication and acceptance of different aspects of sexuality. 24 adolescent protection cases who reported violent experiences in countries of origin have found relief in individual sessions with UNFPA teams which alleviated their anxiety and every day trail of thoughts, especially through empowerment sessions, and referral to PSS as needed.

*"I remember in one country, where racism is very present, I've seen people put their shirts over their noses while walking past me. I never thought I would shake hands with a white man, but I've changed my mind about those prejudices because I can sit with you and talk about my opinions freely."*

- Boy, 18, Gambia, currently in Miral



2300

Estimated migrant/refugee population in BiH



17

Women headed households



4

LGBTQI persons supported



3

UNFPA Woman and Girls Centers



4

UNFPA Boys and Young Men Centers

## Fast facts

Women and Girls committee meeting enables women in TRCs to discuss various topics with UNFPA teams regarding potential risks and differences which impact them during movement. As a priority, individuals with disabilities were given corresponding aid and support with the goal of facilitating their daily struggles and create a safe and prosperous environment for this vulnerable population.



### 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



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