

MONTHLY OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW IN NUMBERS | MAY 2022

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

Report No. 15



**ADDRESSING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

Throughout May, UNFPA with the support of the EU continued coordinating the GBV response within the mixed migration situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina through a series of educational and preventive activities targeting both humanitarian personnel and residents of TRCs. Within this, our teams in Canton Sarajevo organized two trainings on the topic of “Managing Gender-based violence in Emergencies for humanitarian personnel working in TRCs”.

Furthermore, UNFPA continued with preventive GBV educational sessions with residents of TRCs, familiarizing participants with types of violence with a special focus on sexual violence. Additionally, UNFPA in close coordination with SFA and IOM continued to assist highly vulnerable male individuals through safe accommodation, monitoring and protection within the Green Zone in TRC Blazuj. UNFPA held the first GBV support group for residents of the Green Zone with the aim of breaking the cycle of social isolation and expanding their social support network.

**Psycho-social support sessions with male GBV survivors covered an array of different topics, including topics of stigma, social exclusion and anxiety as a result of unfortunate news received from their countries of origin.**



May 2022

## Participation and Empowerment oriented assistance



### Soraya's Story

"From the earliest years of my life, I knew that I was different from other girls. I did not have the same interests as my friends, and I was not interested in things that are typical for girls," Soraya\*, an adolescent LGBTQI+, begins her story with a painful recollection of her tormented childhood.

"As I grew older, this feeling intensified, as did the discomfort I felt of being trapped in my own body," she says.

Soraya is just one of the thousands of LGBTQI+ youth who are forced to live an undignified and unfulfilled life due to resistance, oppression and rejection from their community.

"In my country, being lesbian, bisexual and transgender is much more than just tough. It is also dangerous. I experienced a lot of difficulties in school due to my physical appearance. I was not accepted by my peers, their parents, my school and my community. Even a simple walk to school would be a traumatic experience followed by a constant barrage of bullying and harassment."

Reaching boiling point, the abuse became so intense that she was forced to quit school and leave her home country in order to finalize her gender transition and education.

*"The happiest moment of my life was when I felt love and acceptance from my parents. From that point other people's opinions became irrelevant to me, and I felt liberated, they assured me that they would support me on my gender transition path."*

Soraya and her parents are currently accommodated in one of the temporary reception facilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and she enjoys access to the full spectrum of mental health services supported by the EU and UNFPA.

"When I attended the first psychological group at the UNFPA Women and Girls Center, for me it was something completely different and special. The UNFPA psychologists help me navigate my feelings and emotions which can be overwhelming at times, due to the harrowing experiences in my home country and during movement. Here I found a safe place, filled with support and acceptance," Soraya ends her story.

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



May 2022



UNFPA MHSSP Experts recorded elevated needs for individual MHPSS sessions amongst women and girls, with particular focus on adolescent girls due to a recorded increase of arrivals to TRC Usivak. Individual sessions addressed manifestations of sleep disorders and insomnia, PTSD and triggers stemming from traumatic experiences, stress and anxiety connected with movement.

UNFPA with EU support continues to foster and build on good practices with local healthcare centers in coordinating crucial SRH/GBV service delivery for affected populations ensuring that women and girls, adolescent boys and young men can lead healthy and productive lives.



2279

Estimated migrant/refugee population in BiH



22

Women headed households



2

LGBTQI+ persons supported



2

UNFPA Women and Girls Centers



3

UNFPA Boys and Young Men Centers

## Fast facts

UNFPA took part in marking the first 30 years of Bosnia and Herzegovina's membership in the United Nations with participation in UN's #imaginechange festival by promoting culture, creativity, resilience and diversity through an exhibition of art works created by persons on the move.



### 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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# WOMEN AND GIRLS CENTER

خواتین اور لڑکیوں کا مرکز

مرکز

مرکز



*From an empowerment workshop organized in Women and  
Girls' Centre in TRC Borici - "A box of things I'm good at"*