UNFPA and Service for Foreigners’ Affairs (SFA) continue to strengthen good cooperation in ensuring vulnerable young men have access to protection-sensitive accommodation and supportive services. In the reporting month, UNFPA in coordination with SFA in TRC Lipa (Una Sana Canton) commenced with identification of extremely vulnerable individuals and routing of referrals for registration and accommodation in the protection sensitive accommodation area “Green zone”.

The UNFPA Women and Girls Center in TRC Usivak jointly with Service for Foreigners’ Affairs (SFA) and IOM has agreed on a protection assistance mechanism in identification and accommodation of extremely vulnerable categories of women (single mothers and pregnant women). Following support in identification for accommodation, the UNFPA team will further proceed with provision of essential services in a timely manner within the spectrum of empowerment, SRH and psychosocial support.

On the occasion of the International Day of Peace, a “Week of non-violence” was held with male adolescents at BYMC TRC Usivak. In this regard, a series of activities were held with the aim of raising awareness of tolerance and gender equality. One of the activities included adolescent writing supportive letters to women-GBV survivors.

UNFPA maintained continuity of weekly Boys’ Voice meetings throughout September despite challenges arising from high turnover and short stay of residents in TRCs. Boys’ representatives freely voiced their concerns, needs and suggestions.
Zaweed’s Story

Zaweed* spent most of his adolescent life moving from country to country, while his dreams and aspirations withered away in the thousands of miles he had to cover on foot. When life got particularly tough, he would wonder what more perils must he endure to live a life decent of a human being.

With EU support, UNFPA and Service for Foreigners’ Affairs (SFA) work in close coordination to ensure vulnerable young men like Zaweed have access to protection-sensitive shelter, the so-called “Green zone”.

Together with his peers, Zaweed found a safe shelter within the Green Zone in TRC Lipa. Today, he enjoys taking part in the various supportive services at his disposal, especially participating in the Boys on the Move sessions.

“When I arrived in TRC Lipa, UNFPA staff immediately approached me and introduced me to the Green Zone. To be honest, looking back, I did not really understand the purpose, however, once I settled they invited me to the UNFPA center and provided me with really helpful information.”

Zaweed says that during movement he had witnessed numerous accounts of sexual violence being perpetrated against people on the move.

“After the educational session on gender-based violence, I started to understand the purpose of the Green Zone, and its importance in ensuring young men like myself remain safe. Today, I feel safe and protected.”
Residents of TRC Lipa took part in weekly sports activities organized by UNFPA in coordination with SFA and IOM. Through sports activities held in the HSC Arena in Bihać, UNFPA with the help of EU sought to improve socialization, community cohesion and well being of residents.

UNFPA humanitarian personal participated in the UNFPA Training on the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Sexual and Reproductive Health in Crises, therewith contributing to strengthening capacities of local communities for protection of sexual and reproductive health during crises situations.

UNFPA marked “World Contraception Day” with women and girls in TRC Borići through specialized gynecological sessions held by UNFPA supported gynecologist. Participants were familiarized with contraceptives, their availability within the UNFPA centers, as well as, their purpose, characteristics and proper application.

*Estimate based on DTM and Consolidated number of migrants in TRCs in Bosnia and Herzegovina reports (IOM - 29 September 2022)
What better way to nip GBV in the bud than by improving maternal literacy through a number of carefully prepared educational activities implemented within the UNFPA Women and Girls Centers?