



Theatre-based Education Training – Call for Participants

UNFPA and UNICEF are jointly building a network of individuals who wish to better their communities' lives through use of inclusive, innovative tools in their professional work in BiH. We strongly believe in innovative approaches to pressing community issues, without resorting to controversy for the sake of publicity. We strongly believe in the notion that empowered individuals and communities who are able to tell their stories are the ones that can also formulate solutions, mobilize support and effect a change. **To that end, we are looking to empower a core group of 25 individuals, community leaders** to use theatre based education in their community work, in order to enhance their impact.

Selected participants will receive comprehensive educational package, including mentoring support and small stipends for utilizing newly acquired knowledge in their local communities.

Overall objective:

This training program aims to build capacities of grass-roots leaders to use theater-based education (TBE) in their work on raising community awareness on the sensitive issues of marginalized communities, inter alia:

- *Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR),*
- *Gender equality (special focus on survivors of conflict related sexual violence),*
- *Rights of girls and boys to be protected from all forms of violence*
- *Marginalized communities (Roma)*
- *Other sensitive topics.*

Specific Objectives:

- Build the capacities and skills of participants in using theater based peer education to bring awareness on the issues of interest;
- Facilitate the development of individuals/activists providing high quality TBE training and assistance;
- Understand the basic problems within sexual and reproductive health and rights; protection of adolescents from all forms of violence and early marriage; Gender equality and stigma associated with a status of survivor of violence and design ways to address them through theatre-based approaches; rights of marginalized groups such as Roma;
- Use and engage TBE techniques in addressing issues related to above mentioned topics;
- Ensure further knowledge transfer and replicability.

Participant profile:

Priority will be given to nominees who meet the following **criteria**:

- **Professional background and experience.** Participants who are directly involved in the three key sectors as outlined below, as representatives of the governmental structures, NGO activists, service providers, youth leaders etc.
 - **sexual and reproductive health and rights**
 - *Roma health and/or social development,*
 - *Sexual and reproductive health,*
 - *Early marriages*
 - *Sexually transmitted infections,*
 - *HIV/AIDS, drug use,*
 - *Youth development,*
 - *Sexual behavior, and*
 - *Broader health promotion.*
 - **gender equality**
 - *Gender roles – masculine and feminine social roles and norms and how they relate to violence*
 - *Survivor stigma – stigmatization of survivors of gender based violence or conflict-related sexual violence; including stigmatization associated with psychosocial treatment of perpetrators of gender based violence*

- **rights of children**
 - *Protecting children / adolescents, in particular from the Roma population, from all forms of violence (Physical, sexual and emotional violence, including corporal punishment, peer violence and potentially also online safety)*
 - *Key focus on addressing social norms that socially condone violence against /among children/ adolescents*

and other sensitive issues, related to rights of marginalized and disenfranchised communities

- **Future use of the knowledge gained during the training.**
 - Nominees who will apply the acquired knowledge by creating at least 4 youth performances addressing relevant topics, while receiving modest support from UNFPA and UNICEF in this process
- **Other qualifications.**
 - Nominees who have demonstrated a personal commitment to theater as a tool of awareness raising in the communities as proven by involvement in work with NGO or community work; have an interest or experience in theater methodology, drama and acting, including improvisation;
 - Be open to learning, growing and receiving constructive criticism which is evaluated based on an applicant's statement of intention for the training.
 - Possesses ability to engage a group in an educational process, appreciate an interactive model of learning, create a comfortable environment, convey accurate information, mediate conflict, and understand group dynamics.
 - Participants from the following locations are highly encouraged to apply: Kakanj, Tuzla, Visoko, Zivinice, Gorazde, Prijedor, Mostar, Banja Luka, Trebinje, Modrica and Brcko as these are the locations where the project will be implemented;
 - **Has the ability to attend the both training workshops of 5 days each – 5 days in November, and 5 days in December.**
 - **Participants should also speak English, as some training sessions might be delivered in this language.**

Logistical details:

Trainings will be organized through two five-day long sessions (one in November, and one in December), that will be facilitated by two experts in the area of theatre based education.

Trainings will be conducted in BiH, and all associated costs with participation in this training (transportation, learning tools, venues, food&board etc) are covered by UNFPA and UNICEF.

Application procedures:

Please send us your CVs with motivational letters by November 11, 2016 to Nadja Firdus at firdus@unfpa.org

Background:

There is no story and no forum without an issue! It can be something that bothers your own community, your group, your own organization or even yourself. Through forum theatre we can influence decision makers and find out what people really think. It is an effective way to initiate discussion even between subjects that need a little push. Furthermore, we can give voice to those who have none or to those who need a safe environment.

Reproductive health and rights (SRHR), gender equality (with special focus on survivors of conflict related sexual violence), rights of children, and rights of girls and boys to be protected from all forms of violence and other sensitive topics are often overlooked and treated as marginal due to the attached perception of controversy surrounding them. However, this perception does not change the importance of accessing these rights, especially for adolescents and youth. Even though seemingly modernizing, our society is facing a continuous re-traditionalization of societal norms, behavior patterns and attitudes which results in new generations of young people with whom additional efforts, time and resources are needed for empowerment in order for them to demand and access their basic human rights, including protection from harmful practices, protection from early marriage, basic access to youth friendly SRH services and others. This is particularly needed for key populations and those most vulnerable in the society, including Roma. With



that in mind, additional work is needed in bringing down the prejudice through open dialogue and a constructive deliberation on what should be essentially basic, mundane, everyday issues.

In parallel, issues of conflict related sexual violence have far reaching, long-term consequences for survivors, their families and entire communities due to trans-generational transfer of trauma and associated stigma. The research on stigmatization of conflict-related sexual violence survivors showed that survivors face multiple levels of discrimination, exclusion and separation from the community. This stigma is so consistent, pervasive and durable with an often end-state of survivors internalizing it, ultimately resulting in their total self-exclusion from the communities. There can be no improvement in survivors' position in the society if they themselves are resigned to their position and unwilling to demand change. Moreover, research showed that psychosocial support is listed as the number one need and priority for the survivors in their efforts to heal and reclaim their lives.

This situation clearly points towards the need for public discussions on stigma, prejudices and discrimination survivors are facing in their everyday lives, coming from different sides – community, friends, acquaintances, even family. What is important to keep in mind is that often times all these attitudes come from a place of ignorance, lack of information or complete obliviousness for sensitivities of extremely marginalized groups – and this is something that can be addressed. The solution is not easy, but is relatively simple in its construct.

Roma are the BiH's most numerous, most disadvantaged and most vulnerable minority. The current situation of most Roma families in BiH is one of chronic multi-dimensional poverty. The gap between Roma and the majority populations in terms of education, health-care, access to housing, and employment is significant and Roma women are particularly disadvantaged. Roma children are three times more likely to be living in poverty than their neighbours; they are five times more likely to be underweight; they are twice as prone to stunting; their primary school attendance rate is one third less than the national average; and their immunisation rate is 17 times lower than the average.

Roma children's vulnerability is brought about by generations of social exclusion, discrimination and family poverty. Roma population, especially children face huge equity gaps in the sectors of education (from preschool rates to secondary schools, and literacy in general), health (gaps in immunization, antenatal care, adolescent birth rate, health care of young children, and lack of stimulating home environment), child protection (exposure and under reported violence, neglect and abuse), life styles (higher smoking and alcohol abuse), and across all sectors.

Roma children are not integrated well into society due to discrimination by the non-Roma population and the physical isolation of some Roma communities. General population associate Roma with poverty, begging, poor hygiene habits, at risk and in conflict with the law, lack of responsibility and resistance towards the mainstream values.

When it comes to Roma women and girls, it is evident that patriarchal values and gender roles are deeply entrenched in this group of population. The evidence comes from several indicators, such as access to education, early marriage and attitudes towards domestic violence. The Gender Parity Index calculated in the Roma Survey (MICS 2011-2012) clearly points at fewer girls having access to education than boys, where the most radical difference is in secondary education. Furthermore, the study shows that 15% of Roma women aged 20 – 49 married before the age of 15, whereas 48% of women of the same age married before they turned 18. The biggest percentage of women who married underage belongs to the group of no formal education and lowest socioeconomic status. Finally, in terms of attitudes towards domestic violence, the survey indicates that the Roma women would be more inclined to believe that a husband/partner has the right to hit or beat his wife/partner, again finding more prevalence of this belief with less educated women. 57% of Roma children aged 2-14 years were subjected to any method of violent discipline by their parents or other adult household member.