



UNITED
NATIONS
BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA

ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT 2023



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SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS

FOREWORD BY UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR

On behalf of the United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, it is my honour to present our United Nations Annual Results Report for 2023.

I wish to congratulate Bosnia and Herzegovina for presenting its second **Voluntary National Review** on SDG progress at the High-Level Political Forum in July, establishing the Inter-sectoral **SDG Working Group** in BiH (SDG Council) and co-convening the high-level SDG Financing side event in New York. The country's **SDG Financing Framework**, which is in the final stages of approval, will also ultimately increase financing and partnerships for accelerating SDG progress in BiH for generations to come.

With the support of the **United Nations Peacebuilding Fund**, Bosnia and Herzegovina also took important steps in 2023 to promote reconciliation. With commitments to invest KM 36 million to date, our support aims to enable a longer term, locally owned and inclusive approach to building trust and prosperity across the country. Important elements include enhancing women's participation in decision making, empowering young peacebuilders, fostering social cohesion in local communities, and addressing the legacies of the wartime past.

This year marked the half-way point for the 2030 Agenda. Yet, as highlighted at the **SDG Summit** in September, we face unprecedented global challenges undermining SDG progress, including record inflation and debt distress; the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss; resurgent conflicts; and human rights rollbacks, especially impacting women and girls. With 2023 marking the **75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**, our commitment to revive the essence of this foundational document and accelerate SDG progress has therefore never been more vital. Bosnia and Herzegovina's upcoming 4th Universal Periodic Review which will be prepared in 2024, provides a key opportunity to examine the human rights situation and where improvements can be made.

Human rights remained at the forefront of the United Nations mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina during 2023. We continued to emphasise the importance of freedom of expression and association, as well as accountability and justice, especially in cases of violence against journalists and human rights defenders. We worked to counter divisive narratives, hate speech and disinformation, which often targeted women and minorities. Horrific instances of femicide and new UN research detailing the disproportionate burden of unpaid work on women, shone a light on the urgency of prioritising gender equality in every sector. With local elections due in 2024, I therefore urge all actors to intensify their efforts to increase women's representation.

This Annual Report details impressive results by the United Nations team delivering more than USD 92 million in programmes, policy engagement and initiatives including: 27,286 people benefiting from improved skills and access to lifelong learning programmes; 149,236 people benefiting from UN supported health services; more than 54,000 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers accessing support; 60 policies, strategic and regulatory frameworks and financing instruments supported; and more than 10,000 youth and 300 CSOs supported through social cohesion programmes. I thank the United Nations team for their dedication and commitment to the prosperity of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Our sincere appreciation is also extended to the authorities across Bosnia and Herzegovina for their partnership, as well as our donors for their generous support.

As we prepare for our new five-year Cooperation Framework with Bosnia and Herzegovina, I encourage everyone to join us in this process. Together, we can ensure that no one is left behind on the country's journey towards the EU accession, and a more prosperous, inclusive, greener and fairer future for all.



Dr Ingrid Macdonald

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UN COUNTRY TEAM

Eighteen United Nations agencies, funds and programmes comprise the United Nations Country Team (the UNCT) in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The UNCT is led by the United Nations Resident Coordinator (RC), the designated representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for development operations in the country. The UNCT is composed of representatives of specialised UN entities that are signatories to the 2021–2025 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and carry out operational activities for sustainable development and implementation of the framework in line with their normative mandates and technical expertise.

The UNCT coordinates its work closely with entities that are not UNSDCF signatories, including the Bretton Woods Institutions (International Monetary Fund and World Bank), the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UN Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS), UN Information Centres (UNIC), and UN peace and political entities, in order to maximise the impact of implementation of UNSDCF 2021–2025.

Agencies with a country office presence



Project offices with an in-country presence

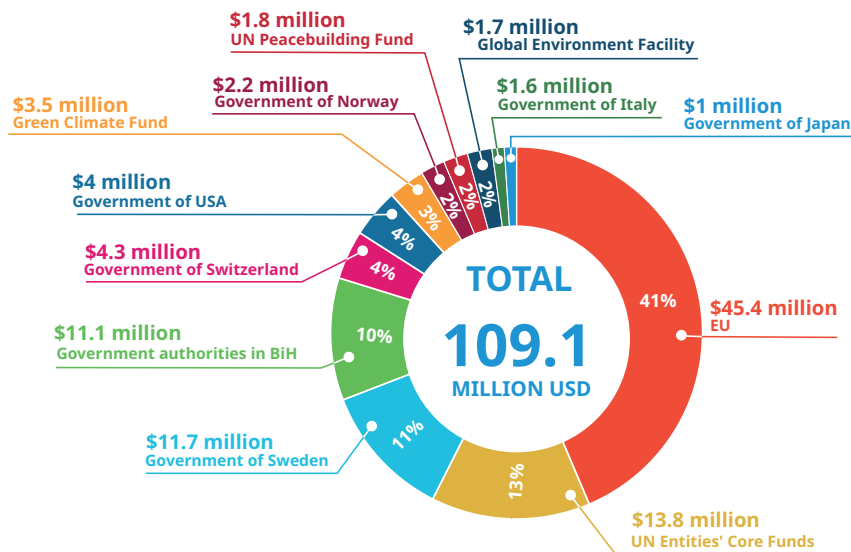


Non-resident agencies



LARGEST CONTRIBUTORS 2023

The United Nations wishes to thank all those who contributed to the operations of the UN agencies, funds and programmes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and acknowledges the largest contributors, who are the following:



KEY COUNTRY DEVELOPMENTS



Population
3,434,000
 (Agency of Statistics of BiH, BHAS, 2022)

Area
51,209.2 km²
 (BHAS)

Demographic and social indicators:

Fertility rate
1.2
 (WB, 2022)

Macro-economic indicators:

Unemployment rate
13.6%
 (BHAS, 2023)

GDP Annual Growth Rate
1.9%
 (BHAS, 2023)

Real GDP growth
2%
 (IMF, 2023)

Public debt (% of GDP)
41.8%
 (WB, 2022)

Consumer Price Index
2.2%
 (Q4 2022–Q4 2023, BHAS)

Proportion of youth (age 15–24 years) not in education, employment or training
19.3%
 (18.8% male, 19.9% female; ILO, 2021)

Global rankings and indexes:

SDG Index
74.02/100; Rank, 47/166
 (Sustainable Development Report, 2023)

Global Freedom Score
52/100 (partly free)
 (Freedom House, 2022)

Democracy score
37/100 (Transitional or Hybrid)
 (Freedom House, 2022)

Rule of Law Index
0.51 ↓ Rank, 75/142 (regional, 7/15)
 (World Justice Project, 2023)

Corruption Perception Index
Score, 35/100; Rank, 108/180
 (Transparency, 2023)

In the past few decades, Bosnia and Herzegovina has made significant progress as measured by several socio-economic and developmental indicators. This success is important for achievement of Agenda 2030, which BiH endorsed along with all other UN member states in 2015. In recognition of this progress, and following its application for membership of the European Union (EU) in 2016 and the European Commission (EC)'s opinion in 2019, BiH was granted EU candidate status in December 2022, with the expectation for membership negotiations to be opened in March 2024.

Despite ongoing challenges with regard to data aggregation and collection, BiH is classified as a country with a high level of human development, positioned 74th out of 191 nations by the Human Development Index (HDI). Furthermore, its Gender Development Index has been steadily improving, reaching 0.94 in 2021. With regard to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) index, BiH ranks 59th out of 163 countries, with a score of 71.7, slightly above the regional average of 71.6.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has made significant strides in implementing the SDGs in recent years, as highlighted in its last Voluntary National Review (VNR). The country has demonstrated its commitment to addressing the SDGs across various sectors despite the numerous challenges it faces. Progress has been notable in areas such as poverty reduction, gender equality and sustainable economic growth. Efforts to improve access to education and healthcare have been prioritised, with initiatives aimed at improving services for all and reducing disparities among marginalized communities. Moreover, BiH has taken steps to enhance environmental sustainability, including the preservation of natural resources and the promotion of renewable energy sources. Despite the progress made, there remain areas requiring further attention, particularly in ensuring inclusive development and tackling regional disparities. Moving forward, continued collaboration among stakeholders, robust policy frameworks and targeted investments will be crucial in sustaining momentum towards achieving the SDGs in the country.

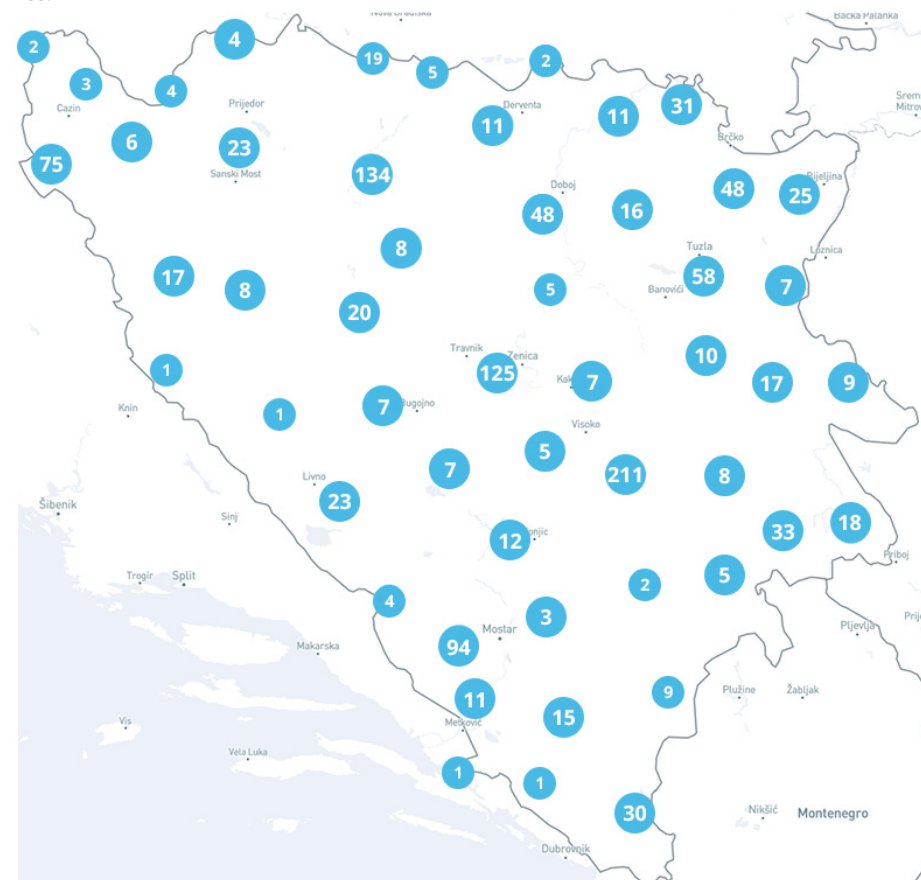
In 2021, economic growth in BiH post-pandemic was robust, at 7.4 percent, though this slowed to 3.9 percent the following year due to challenges from adverse food and fuel price shocks, the slowdown in Europe's economy and ongoing internal political tensions. Although inflation decreased from its peak of 17.4 percent in October 2022, it remains notably high. Despite visible progress, the majority of fundamental reforms are stalled and, despite achieving EU candidacy status, only a few legislative reforms have been adopted and enforced. As economic activity in Europe slowed and commodity prices declined, growth fell to two percent in 2023, with inflation at six percent. The following years are expected to experience low growth at three percent, with inflation gradually returning to two percent. The risks of downward trends are significant, including the potential for a sudden deceleration of the EU economy, heightened domestic political tensions and the realisation of financial risks.

In addition, significant systemic risks remain: according to the latest estimates of the BiH Agency of Statistics, the country had 3.434 million citizens in 2022, though the statistics do not allow for the considerable emigration of the population that has taken place. Independent projections suggest Bosnia and Herzegovina is losing around 1.5 percent of its population annually, with many demographers estimating that the current size is no more than three million.

Despite such challenges, the UN in Bosnia and Herzegovina, along with all levels of government, are committed to working towards a more prosperous, inclusive and environmentally sustainable future for all, anchored in the promotion and protection of the human rights of all. Adoption of the SDG Framework in 2021 put in place a countrywide structure that can guide development and sectoral strategies at all levels and defines specific measures and activities that contribute directly to implementation of Agenda 2030. This process has underscored the crucial role that local communities play in implementing the Agenda, as they are positioned uniquely to provide detailed information on vulnerable groups and the most effective ways in which to provide them with services.

UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM SUPPORT TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA THROUGH THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

The 2021–2025 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework was signed in 2021 by the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina. UNSDCF outlines four strategic priorities for joint work: Sustainable, resilient and inclusive growth; Quality, accessible and inclusive education, health and social protection; People-centred governance and rule of law; and Citizen and community engagement for social cohesion. The Framework reaffirms joint commitments to work towards results that will help all people in BiH live longer and healthier, and have more prosperous and more secure lives.



Geographical location of UNCT support, with the number of interventions per location as reported on [UN INFO](https://data.un.org/dataset/uninfo)




STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

Sustainable resilient and inclusive growth

UN ENTITIES

Strategic Priority 1 is led by **FAO** and **UN Women**, bringing together the efforts of **IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITU, UNDP, UNDRR, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, and UNICEF.**

BUDGET (USD)

-  **Required**
40.8 m
-  **Secured**
40.8 m
-  **Spent**
35.3 m (87%)

Alignment with SDGs:



© UNDP BiH/Haris Čalkić


Newt Come Home: Experts undertake significant activities to protect a rare amphibian in Prokoško Lake




Tourists flock to Prokoško Lake, located in a livestock farming village on Mount Vranica, drawn by its natural beauty. However, the lake's ecosystem is under threat due to expansion of construction, sewage issues, waste disposal problems, and uncontrolled fish stocking. These factors have led to the extinction of the Bosnian alpine newt, once the lake's main animal inhabitant.

 **7** and **5** financial mechanisms frameworks in energy and environment 

227 and **391** companies improved competitiveness businesses with enhanced infrastructure

Risk assessments conducted in **54%** of local governments **10** local governments developed **DRR plans** 

 DRR advocacy campaign reached **>60,000 citizens**

 **45% increase** in annual revenues for supported agri-food operators generated

 Improved employment opportunities for **1,683** and **2,738** jobs (1,076 for women) preserved

Outcome 1: By 2025, people benefit from resilient, inclusive and sustainable growth ensured by the convergence of economic development and management of environment and cultural resources

Food Security

- ▶ The Joint SDG Fund funded a study on food security in BiH.
- ▶ An official delegation participated in the UN Food Systems Summit in Rome, leading to the development of strategic pathways in BiH.
- ▶ Ministry of Finance and Treasury BiH, as national partner, launched the country's overall food systems transformation process with UN support.
- ▶ UN established a dedicated partnership with authorities in BiH to enhance business opportunities for rural women and improve the living standards and socio-economic positions of families in rural areas.

Environment and climate change. Overall, the UN's policy advice led to the development of seven new frameworks and five financial mechanisms in energy and environment in 2023. With UN support, Bosnia and Herzegovina compiled environmental data on land degradation and affected ecosystems, having submitted its [2022 country report to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification \(UNCCD\)](#). The UN also supported community-based environmental sustainability and climate resilience during [Environment Innovation Start-up Week\(ends\)](#), empowering especially women and girls, to become community leaders and innovators. The UN, together with institutional stakeholders, developed bias-corrected climate scenarios and a Regional Strategy for Climate Resilient Infrastructure, commencing activities on developing a Climate Proofing Platform for Sustainable Development. The Regional e-Waste Monitor, aimed at guiding beneficiaries in crafting

green and sustainable digitalisation policies, has been developed with a particular focus on effective e-Waste management. A state-level Action Plan on Food Loss and Waste Prevention, Reduction and Monitoring was crafted, targeting a 50 percent decrease in food waste by 2030 and minimising losses across food supply chains.

Resilience. In terms of knowledge exchange, 13 municipalities from Bosnia and Herzegovina participated in EURESFO 2023, having engaged in a peer-to-peer session on urban resilience with Making Cities Resilient 2030 hubs and Portuguese member cities. In the area of disaster risk reduction (DRR), the Una-Sana Canton's flood and landslide preparedness was improved through the [delivery of emergency response vessels](#) to the Cantonal Civil Protection and the Red Cross. As part of the DRR UN Joint Programme, the integration and costing of the local-level DRR model in social and child protection and education occurred in ten local development strategies, extending risk-informed services to more than 12,000 children and families, aligning with Leaving No One Behind and Sendai Framework targets. With UN support risk assessments were conducted in 54 percent of local governments, with ten of them developing DRR plans. A countrywide DRR advocacy campaign led by the UN reached more than 60,000 citizens, including vulnerable families and children from high-risk communities.

Markets, economy and trade. The UN collaborated with the city of Mostar to introduce a [visitor tax](#) and [Heritage Pass, improving tourism and revenue](#), while empowering 88 individuals through a cash for work scheme to enhance skills in customer service and responsible tourism practices. The UN contributed to the adoption of the Law on Wine and finalisation of the Strategic

Plan for Rural Development of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2023–2027, resulting in improved competitiveness for 227 companies, enhanced business infrastructure for 391 companies and employment opportunities for 1,683 people (including 306 women), while preserving 2,738 jobs (1,076 for women) and generating a 45 percent increase in annual revenues for the agri-food operators it supported.

Social empowerment. Unemployed people, particularly among vulnerable groups, will benefit from the newly adopted FBiH Employment Strategy 2023–2030. The UN developed policy and programming options to promote inclusive and sustainable growth by assessing the [weight of the care economy on society in BiH](#), focusing on formal and informal work. Through this work the [elderly and persons with disabilities \(PwD\) were able to access a comprehensive overview of their rights](#), thus also alleviating the burden placed on caregivers, predominately women. The UN, with relevant authorities, supported vulnerable female and male migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, including 544 survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), in temporary reception centres (TRCs) in Una-Sana and Sarajevo Cantons to overcome mental health challenges, increase competences and develop personal coping mechanisms in general. In addition, affected populations were provided with education, dignity items and services improving their sexual and reproductive health (SRH), helping 162 pregnant women maintain a healthy pregnancy. The UN successfully piloted a model of upskilling and employment of mothers of pre-school children in cooperation with the private sector that could be easily replicated across the country.

Our stories

© ILO BiH
Conita from Tešanj creates jobs and improves business management model

© ILO BiH
Video: Become a Tourist Guide and Stay in BiH: exploring the wonders and treasures of Bosnia and Herzegovina together

© UN Women BiH/Denis Ruvic
Women in Bosnia and Herzegovina spend more than six hours a day on unpaid care work, while men spend just over three hours

© UN Women BiH/Denis Ruvic
Video: Become a Tourist Guide and Stay in BiH: exploring the wonders and treasures of Bosnia and Herzegovina together

© ILO BiH
Young people and activists formulated key messages for decisionmakers in BiH to take with them to COP28, with a special focus on the links between migration and climate change in BiH

© IOM BiH
Electricity after two decades of life in the dark: Mehmed Omeragić and his father Zejnil from Ajdanovići, located on the main road between Sarajevo and Višegrad, finally received electricity when solar panels were installed on their house

© UNDP BiH/ Adnan Bubalo
Sarajevo Centre for Excellence in Entrepreneurship facilitated the establishment of 115 companies and the Alumni Network of Entrepreneurs

© UNFPA BiH
Video: training of unemployed mothers for the labour market


STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2


Quality accessible and inclusive education, health and social protection


UN ENTITIES

Strategic Priority 2 is led by **UNFPA** and **UNICEF**, bringing together the efforts of **ILO, IOM, UN Women, UNDP, UNESCO, UNHCR, and WHO.**

BUDGET (USD)

 **Required**
18.1 m

 **Secured**
15.9 m

 **Spent**
14.2 m (89%)

Alignment with SDGs:



6,500 young people developed 21st-century skills through



4 STEM
laboratories

and 25 science cabinets
in schools



fostering knowledge exchange among
26 schools



27,286
people benefited

directly from improved skills and access to lifelong learning programmes



including comprehensive sexuality education



Outcome 2: By 2025, people benefit from more inclusive and higher quality educational programmes focused on 21st century skills for enhanced employability, well-being and active participation in society

In 2023, BiH saw significant progress in the area of educational engagement and process development in line with the Transforming Education Summit commitment. Collaborating with the EU, OSCE, Council of Europe (CoE), and all Ministries of Education, the UN spearheaded the initiative [Development of Action Plans for Improving Education Quality](#), involving crafting comprehensive ten-year action plans for all levels of education, promoting inclusivity and aligning with Agenda 2030 and EU accession goals.

[Assistive technology integration into teaching was promoted](#) and the programme extended to the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton. Access to the Akelius Digital Language course was facilitated for 2,952 children (1,012, female), demonstrating its efficacy in supporting various learning needs and enhancing motivation.

The UN partnered with public universities and education authorities to **enhance inclusive education** via professional development programmes. Digital learning tools were championed, contributing to the establishment of a platform providing accredited courses. The 'Intervision' programme for teacher development was expanded, benefiting almost 2,000 teachers.

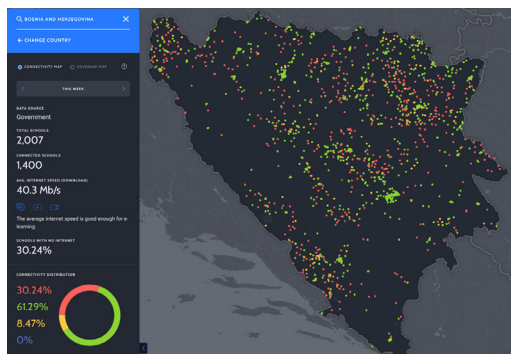
To **bolster BiH's data ecosystem**, the UN focused on [enhancing the availability of reliable education statistics using the ISCED-F 2013 standard](#). Improving evidence-based budgeting in the social sector, finance and local authorities, the UN supported capacity building with a focus on expanding Early Childhood Education and Care.

Advancing digital transformation, the UN facilitated the strategic positioning of BiH schools on the [global Giga map](#), leading to increased Internet access in 76 schools through private

Centres for Early Childhood Development 

Imran of six months ago and Imran today are two different children. In addition to improving his speaking skills, he has much better attention, focus and relationships with elders and peers.

sector mobilisation. Furthermore, seven out of 12 administrative units allocated funds for improving school connectivity, with evidence of positive returns from feasibility studies.



The UN focused on **equipping adolescents, youth and vulnerable groups with employability skills and fostering their active participation in society and the economy.** Through a range of initiatives focused on digital, programming, entrepreneurial and green skills, the UN successfully empowered 756 adolescents (543, female). These efforts led to a commitment from the Ministry of Environment in Tuzla Canton to develop an air quality action plan.

Additionally, the UN facilitated the acquisition of **21st-century skills** for 6,500 young individuals by establishing four STEM laboratories and 25 science cabinets in schools, and fostering knowledge exchange among 26 schools. The second [BizVenture Championship](#), with a majority of female participants (63%), showcased innovative business ideas of 93 students. UN support extended to a network of 136 cantonal institutions promoting STEM and entrepreneurship. Advancing research and development, 25 primary schools and the University of Sarajevo benefited from the procurement of equipment.

Nearly 20,000 students benefited from **enhanced health education** with UN support, achieved through dedicated teacher trainings in Republika Srpska (RS), healthy lifestyle sessions in two cantons in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) and the [provision of pads and reliable information on menstrual health in Sarajevo Canton](#). Ensuring educational continuity for children in TRCs and schools, the UN reached 1,713 children, facilitated [access to preparatory programmes](#) for 82 children and vocational training for 106 boys of secondary-school age.

Enhancing the local integration prospects and employability, the UN supported 72 asylum seekers and refugees in receiving technical and certified trainings, including driving, language IT and graphic design lessons. Providing life-saving information and building competencies in boys and young men experiencing changing and challenging circumstances, the UN recorded the participation of 13,670 vulnerable young men and adolescent boys in life skills sessions, informal education, artistic expression workshops and creative socialising sessions.

The UN collaborated further across all government levels to **address drug use disorders**, delivering science-informed training to practitioners across health, social and criminal justice sectors, with the aim of supporting affected families and institutions, fostering institutional advancements and providing direct assistance.

Through partnerships with local governments, 29 young people were encouraged to gain invaluable experience and develop their professional paths. A total of 17 young women and men, four of whom have disabilities, were engaged in **internships in partner cities and municipalities.**

Digitalised distribution of

USD 50 million



in EU supported energy subsidies to **150,000** vulnerable households



149,236

people benefiting from UN-supported health services

More than **4,000 people**

received information or free legal aid

to access their rights, including healthcare and social protection



More than **33,000 people**



including displaced populations

provided with community-based mental health and psycho-social support services

Outcome 3: By 2025, people have access to better quality and inclusive health and social protection systems

The UN played a pivotal role in **fortifying BiH's social protection system.** Adoption of the Social Protection and the Child Protection strategies in RS in 2023, with progress towards adoption in FBiH, marked a pivotal step facilitated by the UN, critical for addressing social inclusion, disability assessment, shock-responsive social protection and enhanced child protection. Implementation of the Law on Support to Families with Children expanded child cash benefits coverage, benefiting 147 children. To **advance early childhood development (ECD)**, the UN advocated for the Law on Continuing Professional Education, benefiting 390,000 children. Collaboration in Sarajevo Canton [equipped two ECD centres and formulated an Inter-sectoral Action Plan.](#)

Local governance systems were reinforced through social entrepreneurship and integrated case management schemes, benefiting 931 individuals, and social inclusion intervention packages were supported to promote SDGs localisation, and cross-sectoral partnerships in eight target locations. **Advancing e-Government and digital capabilities** with pilot e-Services resulted in the distribution of USD 50 million in energy subsidies digitally to 150,000 vulnerable households in FBiH and established an e-Services platform in Sarajevo Canton.

The UN supported local authorities in **DRR** by endorsing Shock-Responsive Social Protection (SRSP)

Road Maps and assessing public health risks across sectors. This commitment ensured risk-informed cash benefits and services during and after crises, and sustaining interlinked emergency responses. Additionally, 60,000 citizens were sensitised, promoting crisis preparedness and SRSP potential.

With UN support, **BiH's health system was strengthened to provide better quality and inclusive health,** moving towards Universal Health Coverage. Significant improvements in immunisation included the addressing of vaccine hesitancy and upgrading of cold chain equipment and storage facilities to ensure quality standards. More than 500 healthcare professionals were trained to administer COVID-19, HPV and flu vaccines. To address financial barriers to accessing healthcare, the UN supported financial protection studies and investment cases for Non-Communicable Diseases.

Efforts to promote healthy lifestyles and access to health services were successful. Vaccination records improved through sensitisation campaigns, with 35,000 comprehensive records and administration of 7,800 previously missed vaccines, including HPV vaccination for 4,000 youth. Sessions on Youth-Friendly Approaches ensured 109 medical students were trained to deliver SRH services. **Maternal and child health improvements** including the development of Safe Delivery Guidelines, benefitted BiH society overall and

impacting directly 400,000 children, with nutrition programmes benefiting 9,000 vulnerable infants and children, and vision screening for 5,000 pre-school children and parents.

With UN support, authorities in BiH **assisted people on the move and strengthened the capacity of host communities.** More than 4,000 beneficiaries received information or free legal aid, or both, from the UN and its partners to access their rights, including healthcare and social protection. In TRCs, 634 children (317, female) and 753 adults

(541, female) benefitted from health and nutrition services and Mental Health and Psycho-social Support (MHPSS), and more than 1,600 received psychological first aid. Moreover, the UN have strengthened the capacity of communities hosting migrants, asylum seekers and refugees by providing grants for rehabilitation and [refurbishment](#) projects to local health and [social infrastructure](#).

Additionally, 1,818 young men and 842 women **received SRH services**, with 161 pregnant women assisted and 80 receiving health and nutrition services.

Distribution included 1,934 oral contraceptives and condoms, and 637 dignity kits. Efforts to address GBV and SGBV involved focus group discussions, capacity building of civil society organisations (CSOs), improved referral mechanisms, and MHPSS for 2,132 survivors. Sensitisation sessions empowered 323 women and 1,577 young men to recognise GBV.

Legislative changes were promoted to prevent and respond to GBV and SGBV, [including revisions to the Criminal Code on Sexual Harassment](#), as well as

drafting the revised Law on Domestic Violence and the Protection of Women and Girls. The UN boosted women's civic engagement, involving five Roma women's organisations in policy shaping, sensitising 70 leaders on bodily autonomy, training 25 content creators and journalists in GBV reporting and providing psychological and socio-economic support to 50 conflict-related sexual violence survivors. The UN aided the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Policy in developing a [dedicated website](#) for GBV survivors.

Our stories

© UNICEF BiH/Almir Panjeta

A Good Story from a Great Kindergarten - Čika Jova Zmaj Kindergarten in Foča influenced parents, the local community and the authorities to recognise the importance of early childhood development and pre-school education

© UNICEF BiH/Almir Panjeta

© UN Women BiH

Video: Sexual violence & harassment in BiH CSOs persist in the fight for fairer laws

© UNEPFA BiH & RS Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

© UNDP BiH

Communication bridges: For Ahmed from Ušivak, digital language learning platform Akelius facilitates communication, learning and inclusion in class

Anes Kujović from Sarajevo is the first UN Volunteer with Down syndrome in the world

© IOM BiH & Children's Surgery Department of Dr. Mustafa Jubbjankić Cantonal Hospital, Bihać

Young woman receives her first HPV vaccine at health centre in Banja Luka

© UNFPA BiH

Elementary school teachers from Banja Luka successfully completed education on Healthy Lifestyles

© WHO BiH & Lejla Beglerović

Search and rescue exercise of Mountain Rescue Service, with continuous training in providing assistance to persons in distress

© WHO BiH & GSS BiH

© IOM BiH

Thanks to UN support, people and children on the move benefited from more inclusive and higher quality educational activities and programmes

© IOM BiH

Seasonal vaccination offers the best defence against flu and its potentially serious consequences, especially for people older than 65 years. Regular flu vaccination at Health Centre Vrazova, Sarajevo

© UNFPA BiH

Female migrant sees her baby for the first time




STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

People-centred governance and rule of law

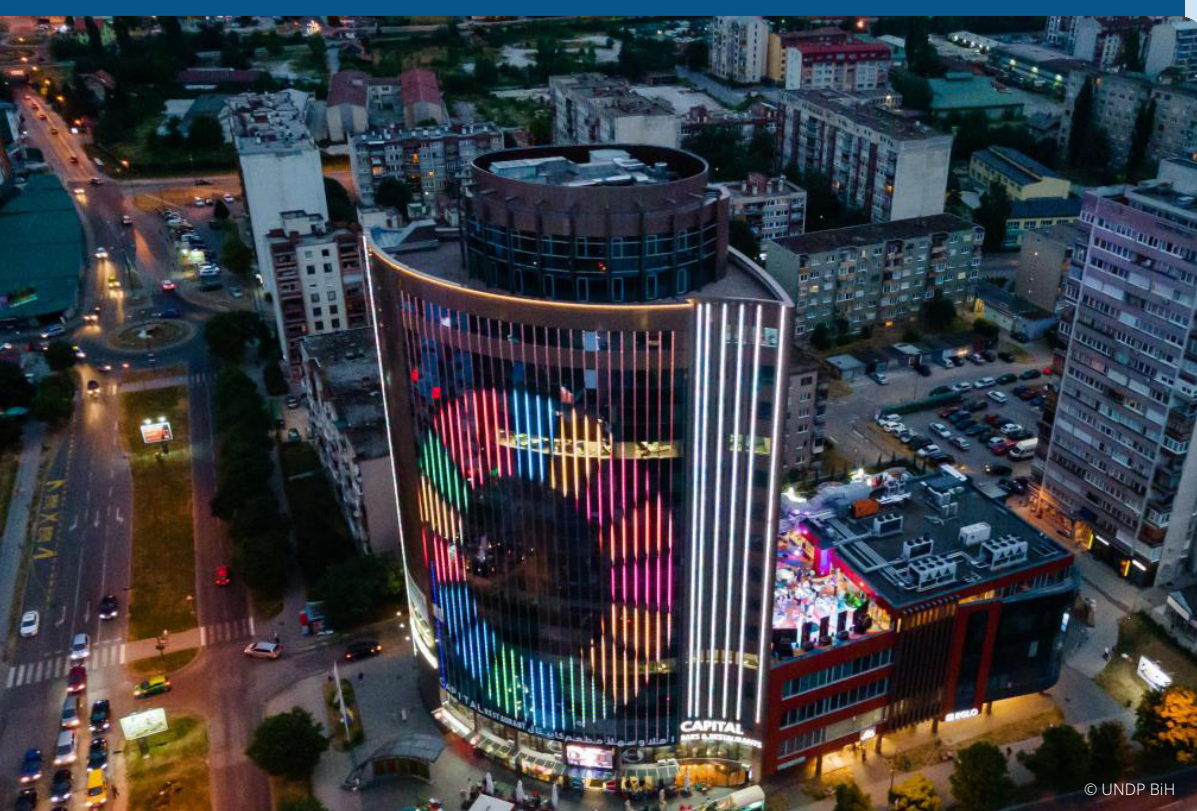
UN ENTITIES

Strategic Priority 3 is led by **UNDP**, bringing together the efforts of **ILO, IOM, ITU, OHCHR, UN Women, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC** and **WHO**.

BUDGET (USD)

-  **Required**
46.2 m
-  **Secured**
40.5 m
-  **Spent**
31.5 m (78%)

Alignment with SDGs:



© UNDP BiH

SDGs in review: Positive change towards a greener, inclusive future in Bosnia and Herzegovina



Despite political divisions, the SDGs have provided a platform for inclusion of a wide range of actors on the future of development in BiH, including the private sector, citizens and academia

60 policies, strategic and regulatory frameworks and financing instruments that contribute to accelerating achievement of the SDG Framework in BiH were supported

Supported by the UN, **9,621** people have gained access to justice

361,605 people are accessing basic services, with UN support

More than **54,000** migrants, refugees and asylum seekers had access to shelter, food and other services in 4 temporary reception centres

97 local, cantonal, entity or state institutions supported to leverage technology and innovation

Outcome 4: By 2025, people contribute to, and benefit from, more accountable and transparent governance systems that deliver quality public services, and ensure rule of law.

The UN continued to provide policy advice and facilitate collaboration between authorities and societal actors in the design of policies and strategies that enable reforms and system change for achievement of the 2030 Agenda.¹ Central to these efforts is the support provided to authorities to monitor and implement the SDG Framework in BiH adopted in 2021. This support included design of the SDG Financing Framework that underscores policies and financing instruments in priority areas (digitalisation, energy, and research and development) that can have a catalytic effect and mobilise development financing from the private sector, domestic

and international financing institutions and other sources. Following its approval by the governments of the two entities and Brčko District in late 2023, the SDG Financing Framework is pending formal endorsement by the BiH Council of Ministers. In parallel, the UN worked with 19 ministries of finance and line ministries increasing their capacities to make gender-responsive budgetary decisions and mainstream gender equality in financing planning.

In addition to supporting institutional partners in designing and implementing policies and interventions to implement the SDG Framework,

¹ Strategy on Integrated Border Management 2024–2029 and Action Plan 2024–2026 of BiH, Public Procurement Strategy for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sustainable Development Strategy of Republika Srpska 2030, Draft Entity Laws on Water Services, Draft Law on Financing of CSOs in FBiH, Research and Development Strategy of Sarajevo Canton, e-Government Law of Sarajevo Canton, City of Banja Luka Population Strategy.

for the first time the UN worked systemically with the supreme audit institutions in BiH to increase their capacities with respect to Agenda 2030. These institutions were exposed to the INTOSAI Development Initiative SDG audit methodology ISAM and participated in implementation of the first regional parallel gender audit, resulting in three audit reports on SDG 5 in the country.

With regard to SDG 16, the Road Map for Deinstitutionalisation was designed, with line ministries outlining four strategic priorities and interventions and generating crucial momentum for the ongoing promotion of care in a family environment (benefiting 12,000 at-risk children and 866 in residential care). Meanwhile, the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council Secretariat adopted recommendations that increased the availability of data on child victims and witnesses in the judiciary case management systems. Capacity building of justice professionals conducted by the UN contributed to strengthening the specialised justice system, reaching 4,000 children in contact with the law who accessed improved services.

As a result of continued assistance in implementing the SDG Framework, today [BiH is among the 57 countries globally and two regionally](#) that can generate data on SDG indicator 11.4.1. Such data highlight both public and private investments in the preservation of cultural and natural heritage, showcasing the country's commitment to sustainable development. In addition, in cooperation with the statistical offices, UN developed demographic [resilience data portals in BiH](#).

So far, one-third (34%) of local governments have translated the SDG Framework pathways into their development strategies. The UN supported local authorities across the country in improving public services, with more than 350,000 women and men benefiting from better service delivery (public infrastructure, energy subsidies, social services, water supply and wastewater services).

In the context of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, under the Human Rights 75 initiative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN supported

eight dialogues with the authorities, institutions and civil society involving 370 participants. These discussions included taking stock of progress made and challenges in the promotion and protection of human rights, dialogue on freedom of expression, media freedom and the safety of journalists, on the rights of persons with disabilities, and on [women human rights defenders](#).

Workers and employers involved in labour disputes in the Republika Srpska can benefit from improved efficiency of the Agency for Amicable Settlement of Labour Disputes, resulting from UN support for the development of an electronic case management system for the Agency.

The UN's work in Bosnia and Herzegovina added value to positive results in the justice and security sectors by enhancing capacities of relevant institutions, aligning legal frameworks with international standards and emphasising human rights and gender perspectives.² The UN supported the judiciary and the prosecution in enhancing capacities in the area of environmental criminal law, and conducted the first mapping of environmental human rights violations in BiH. Law enforcement agencies further enhanced capacity to tackle sexual and gender-based harassment, amplified by the concrete actions of the two associations of women police officers. The UN continued to help authorities improve the policy and technical cybersecurity capacity, including to combat digital sex crimes.

Moreover, the UN-supported Coalition for Gender and Climate Action accelerated progress in gender-just climate action by working with the gender mechanism, line ministries, women CSOs and grassroots groups to promote women's access to finance for gender-equitable climate solutions, strengthen their participation in environmental governance and generate gender-vital statistics. The UN initiated work with the Agency for Gender Equality and the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council to introduce standards of excellence to empower women at work by transforming work culture, regulations, processes and practices for gender equality.

Transition to a state-led migration response remains a critical element of the UN engagement with authorities in BiH. As mixed migration flows continued unabated in 2023, the UN remained committed to [supporting authorities and partners in delivery of rights-based and protection-sensitive assistance](#). In the context of transition to a state-owned mixed migration response, authorities are capacitated to provide [quality services to persons in need](#) of international protection. The UN also strengthened the capacities of governmental free

legal aid providers. As the current system does not have sufficient means to respond to the legal needs of forcibly displaced and stateless people, the UN and civil society are filling this gap by providing information and free legal aid, reaching more than 4,000 persons. In 2023, more than 54,000³ migrants, refugees and asylum seekers had access to shelter, food and non-food items, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, individual assistance and referrals to specialised services in four TRCs.

³ This figure includes beneficiaries registered by both the Service for Foreigners' Affairs and IOM, and those only pre-registered by IOM and who left a TRC before completing the full registration procedure. (IOM pre-registers beneficiaries to enable immediate access to services including shelter, food, NFI and protection assistance).

Our stories

©UN BiH/ Imrana Kapetanović

Individual and group sessions for asylum seekers on procedures and the principles of international protection

©UNHCR BiH/Vaša prava BiH

Regional conference on media freedom and the safety of journalists

©UN BiH/ Imrana Kapetanović

Twelve cities and municipalities in BiH signed memoranda of understanding to improve gender-responsive budgeting and management of public finances at the local level

© IOM BiH

Video: Addressing mixed migration flows in the Western Balkans

Rade Kovač, Head of the Operational Support Sector in the Service for Foreigners' Affairs, expressed his gratitude to the IOM for providing assistance with both humanitarian and security issues since the start of the migration situation.

² The Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina strengthened the sustainable ammunition and weapons life-cycle management system by successful disposal of 43.4 tons of surplus ammunition, reducing the remaining surplus to 5,375.6 tons.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

Citizen and community engagement for social cohesion

UN ENTITIES

Strategic Priority 4 is led by **IOM** and **UNESCO**, bringing together the efforts of **ILO**, **UN Women**, **UNDP**, **UNFPA**, **UNHCR**, and **UNICEF**.

BUDGET (USD)

 **Required**
12.7 m

 **Secured**
11.8 m

 **Spent**
11.1 m (94%)

Alignment with SDGs:



More than

10,000
youth

benefited from

530 social cohesion activities

in partnership with 100 public institutions and 50 CSOs



More than

300 CSOs

including organisations representing women and girls from vulnerable groups, have strengthened capacity to

engage in local development, contribute to social cohesion and offer services to citizens



© IOM BiH

Outcome 5: By 2025, there is stronger mutual understanding, respect and trust among individuals and communities

Peacebuilding and Social Cohesion

- ▶ At the request of the Chair of BiH's Council of Ministers, UN SG declared BiH eligible to benefit from his Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and UN Peacebuilding architecture until 2027.
- ▶ In 2023, within the PBF support, key initiatives on Women, Peace and Security, and Youth Peace and Security were launched in partnership with BiH Ministries of Human Rights and Refugees and the Ministry of Civil Affairs.
- ▶ Under the joint leadership of the Quartet (UN, EU, OSCE and CoE) numerous initiatives were implemented in the field of social cohesion in 30 communities.

The UN remains committed to empowering communities and local authorities by advancing programmes that bolster the sustainable capacities, skills and tools necessary for [fostering social cohesion and peacebuilding in BiH](#). This commitment entails actively engaging citizens and civil society in local development, fostering inclusive dialogue, promoting critical thinking, encouraging innovation and supporting youth activism and ethical media reporting. The UN worked with more than [100 public institutions](#), 50 CSOs and more than [10,000 youth](#) who helped implement more than [530 social cohesion activities in BiH](#) with emphasis on [enhancing trust and cohesion within and between communities](#), and with citizens and decision makers. The UN [promoted the importance of dedicating municipal resources to social cohesion and](#)

Together with the EU, CoE and OSCE, the UN in BiH invests in communities, people and youth who work every day to build trust and sustain peace, cooperating closely with BiH Champions of Peace, whose actions represent best practices in strengthening tolerance and fighting division.



peacebuilding, as well as CSOs and youth. Supported by the UN, and in partnership with the CoE, EU and OSCE, the municipalities of Jablanica and Prnjavor implemented a social cohesion fund, establishing it as a distinct budget line to promote the importance of dedicating municipal resources to social cohesion and peacebuilding.

In partnership with academia, the UN empowered 80 youth to tackle hate speech by [enhancing their skills](#) to independently create media products and lead public advocacy campaigns against harmful, misleading and manipulative content. To promote positive narratives, seven social media campaigns were implemented in cooperation with youth. Furthermore, [educational and cultural youth exchanges](#) were organised meticulously to promote cultural diversity, networking and collaborative dialogue. The UN's [Western Balkans Peacebuilding Manual](#) was successfully incorporated into the curricula of nine university courses at Banja Luka and Bihać, ensuring sustained dissemination through the public education sector. Furthermore, in response to escalating incidents of violence in public spaces, the UN launched a training programme on bystander intervention strategies, reaching 300 students.

By strengthening the ethical and professional standards among media through a self-regulatory mechanism and establishing a [coalition on freedom of expression and content moderation](#), the UN contributed to promotion of such freedom in the country and enhanced societal resilience to potential harmful content spread online, in particular hate speech. In partnership with Al Jazeera Balkans,

a series of ten episodes was produced, initiating a discussion on effective strategies to combat misinformation, discrimination and hate speech, while simultaneously focusing on the rights and freedoms of journalists and their role in creating and promoting media-literate and tolerant societies. Furthermore, an interactive e-Learning module was developed, targeting journalists and content creators, focusing on inclusive reporting practices and narratives that counter hate speech. With the support of the UN, media outlets in Sarajevo, Tuzla and Bihać were trained to identify hate speech, counter divisive narratives, provide accurate reporting on mixed movements and portray forcibly displaced people with dignity. The UN capacitated 50 young content creators and ten journalists in inclusive reporting. Additionally, 50 survivors of Conflict-related Sexual Violence were empowered to become advocates for equality and the prevention of violence.

The UN collaborated with local governments to enhance inter-municipal and inter-entity cooperation in the provision of local services and the creation of a more equitable society. These efforts resulted in a significant engagement of locally recruited young UN volunteers who gained precious professional experience and an opportunity to contribute further to, and collaborate with, local institutions. Furthermore, 80 civic forums and public consultations were held for inclusive identification of local priorities and decision making, resulting in implementation of 11 gender-responsive infrastructural measures and more than 100 small projects of vital importance.

Our stories

World Children's Day was marked with children walking out with footballers in T-shirts bearing the message 'Create us a world worth celebrating' ahead of Bosnia's UEFA EURO 2024 qualifying match with Slovakia

University students combat online disinformation and hate speech in the Summer #YOUTH Camp: Youth joined efforts in advocating for positive narratives, giving a voice to the voiceless, and promoting diversity and equality across the region

Girls and boys from Banja Luka, Bihać, Zenica, Tuzla and Sarajevo at the conference 'The right to life without violence' held in the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH

Football brought together 195 children from migrant and forcibly displaced families and local communities in partnership with the BiH Football Association and UEFA support

Video: Poruka mira #MožemoBolje

Video: Enhancing social cohesion in communities hosting people on the move: Football for all

Video: Pravno na život bez nasilja

PARTNERSHIPS AND AGENDA 2030

In 2023, the UN continued its constructive partnership with the Inter-sectoral Working Group for Monitoring of SDG Implementation in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2023. This partnership resulted in successful preparation and presentation of the second VNR on SDG implementation by the BiH delegation at the High-Level Political Forum in July 2023. The VNR witnessed the progress achieved against the SDG Framework and the countrywide strategic vision for implementation of the SDGs and, equally importantly, identified the gaps and priorities for BiH in the upcoming period. The engagement of the High-Level Political Forum also included a side event on SDG financing held in partnership with Indonesia, Serbia, Sweden and Jeffrey David Sachs. This event placed BiH at the forefront of the global sustainable development financing conversation and presented financing strategies and instruments necessary to accelerate sustainable development towards Agenda 2030. The partnership was further expanded with the joint efforts on preparation of BiH's SDG commitments in support of the global review of implementation of the Goals at the SDG Summit in September 2023.

The UN focused on further strengthening its partnership with the EU, recognising the complementary potential of the 2030 Agenda and the EU integration process of BiH. Within this context and in line with the outcome of the high-level dialogue led by UN Secretary-General Guterres and European Commission President von der Leyen in July 2023, the UN and the EU Delegation in BiH initiated the **first EU-UN Strategic Dialogue**. Guided by the global framework of the six SDG transitions and the

directions of the high-level dialogue, the aim of the EU-UN Strategic Dialogue is to leverage the available expertise and capacities and advance joint policy dialogues in priority areas for the benefit of the authorities in BiH. This partnership will continue in 2024 and beyond with joint efforts, visibility, advocacy and multi-stakeholder development and innovative partnerships in the areas of energy and the green transition, digitalisation, human rights, gender and human capital, including education, health and social protection.

In 2023, the UN, in coordination with the BiH Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, facilitated several bilateral and joint discussions with relevant authorities, as well as private sector representatives, CSOs, academia and the international community in an effort to design the **Green Transition Engagement Platform**. The aim of the platform is to catalyse country-owned transformation towards a green and zero-carbon BiH, setting in motion an informal multi-stakeholder partnership instrument that will connect system actors beyond sectors and mandates, serving as a knowledge-gathering hub leveraging collective intelligence, offering a space for dialogue and acting

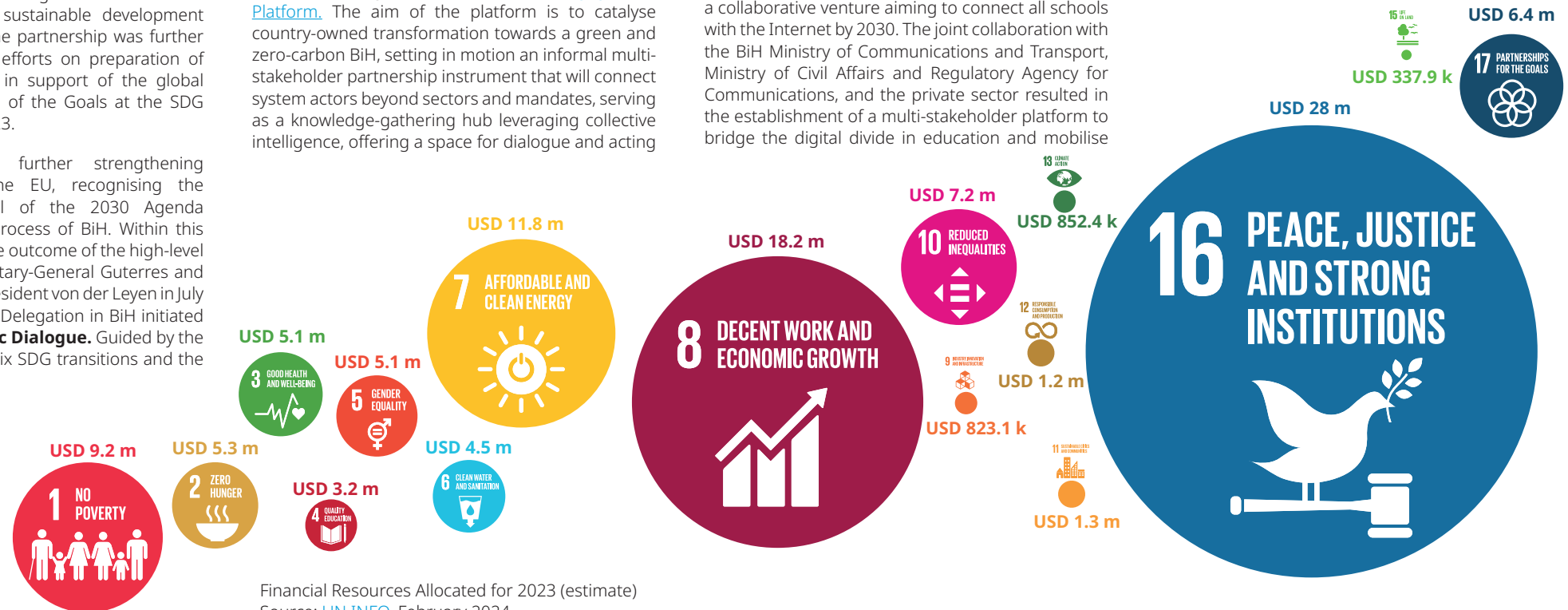
as a bridge between existing efforts for accelerated green transition.

The **UN initiated a multi-sectoral approach** to work on long-term policies and programmes on labour migration in BiH, made possible especially through the non-traditional partnership with Employer's Associations. The UN enabled an **inclusive and participatory approach** to access financial resources for the cultural and creative sector for ten public institutions and CSOs to ensure inclusive and effective cultural policies, strengthen regional cooperation, promote the mobility of artists and services, and protect cultural heritage.

Another notable example is the UN's investment in shared value partnerships concerning Internet connectivity in education, enabling **BiH to join Giga**, a collaborative venture aiming to connect all schools with the Internet by 2030. The joint collaboration with the BiH Ministry of Communications and Transport, Ministry of Civil Affairs and Regulatory Agency for Communications, and the private sector resulted in the establishment of a multi-stakeholder platform to bridge the digital divide in education and mobilise

additional and brokered support from Mtel, the main Internet Service Provider in RS, which extended Internet connectivity to 76 schools.

Within the overall efforts to forge new transformative partnerships for sustainability and local ownership in 2023, the UN facilitated international knowledge-sharing platforms, including the Regional Cervical Cancer Alliance, which aims at promoting health and preventing cervical cancer. Such partnerships were instrumental in reaching underserved or hard-to-reach communities. For instance, through collaboration with the NGO Romalen, 920 Roma families were educated on the benefits of childhood immunisation, resulting in the vaccination of 383



Financial Resources Allocated for 2023 (estimate)
Source: [UN INFO](https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/2023/02/20230201_uninfo_20230201.pdf), February 2024

Roma children (179, females). Similarly, partnerships with cantonal Public Health Institutes enabled epidemiological and hygienic surveillance in TRCs, ensuring compliance with sanitary-epidemiological regulations to safeguard the health of people on the move.

The UN continued its well-established partnership with the private sector and facilitated the organisation of the 2023 SDG Week, an annual discussion platform that raises public awareness and engages all societal stakeholders in conversations about success stories, innovative approaches and lessons learned that contribute to the impactful implementation of Agenda 2030 in BiH. Under the overarching theme 'Partnerships—Accelerators of Sustainable and Inclusive Development', the 2023 SDG week brought together 17 events with more than 1,800 active participants on the issues of SDG localisation, SDG financing, the care economy, digital transformation and others.

The [Third Sarajevo Dialogue](#) convened by the BiH Minister of Security and supported by the UN, highlights another partnership forged in 2023. The Sarajevo Dialogue focuses on regional cooperation towards countering smuggling and human trafficking, facilitating return and readmission, and enabling new regular pathways. In addition, a collaborative endeavour with the BiH Agency for Statistics, the FBIH Institute of Statistics, the RS Institute of Statistics and the educational authorities in BiH resulted in availability of [high-quality, timely and reliable data on secondary and higher education in relation to the International Standard Classification of the Field of Education \(ISCED-F 2013\)](#), thus contributing to achievement of SDG4 and the 17.18 SDG target.

The UN spearheaded innovative initiatives engaging adolescent girls as partners in programme design and implementation related to SDGs 5 and 16, integrating their recommendations and transforming multi-sectoral government and civil society services to become adolescent-friendly and more accessible. The [Bluephone helpline](#) received 13,251 calls focused on violence and mental health and psycho-social support, providing counselling and

referring to government services including police, social welfare, mental health and health. Working with the European Accredited Training Institute for Integrative Psychotherapy (BHIDAPA), line ministries and adolescent girls, the capacity of 300 mental health professionals of the Centres for Social Welfare and for Mental Health resulted in improved, survivor-friendly services reaching 863 adolescents and 1,084 parents and caregivers.

In late 2023, the UN partnered with the FBIH Ministry of Labour and Social Policy to design a digital solution required for the distribution of subsidies to vulnerable categories, as part of the financial package provided by the EU earmarked to mitigate the impact of high prices and worth USD 36 million. As a result, subsidies have been made available for some 154,779 people, selected transparently through publicly advertised and digitalised processes based on pre-determined criteria. The FBIH Ministry of Labour and Social Policy also committed to the [Generation Equality](#) Action Coalition for Economic Justice and Rights to work on adoption of the Law on Social Services, implementation of the Social Protection Strategy, and promotion of gender-responsive budgeting, particularly in the care economy. They are the [first member from BiH](#) to join the Alliance for Care as part of this initiative. Another formalised partnership in 2023 includes signing of memoranda of understanding with [12 local governments that committed themselves to promoting gender-responsive governance](#) of public affairs and resources and strengthening their institutional capacities and processes in terms of understanding gender mainstreaming and gender-responsive budgeting.

In addition, the UN collaborated with the BiH Football Association and the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) to roll-out the innovative Football3 methodology in Bihac and Sarajevo in 2023, emphasising the development of conflict resolution skills among child players through compromise. Notably, the UEFA slogan for social inclusion, #FootbALL, was promoted in BiH for the first time, marking a significant stride towards fostering inclusivity and unity through the universal language of football.

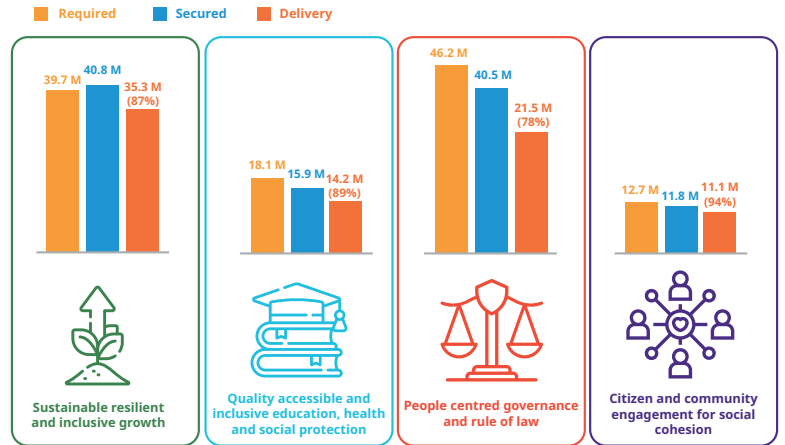
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2023

MILLION USD
109.1 SECURED

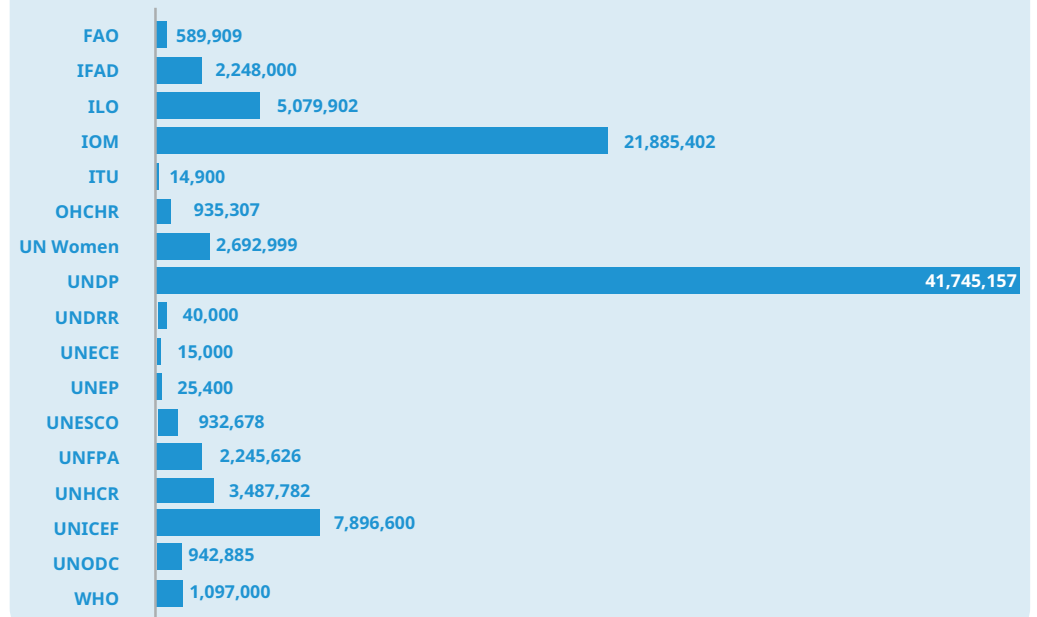


MILLION USD
92.1 DELIVERY
84%

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW PER STRATEGIC PRIORITY



DELIVERY BY UN ENTITY



UNITED NATIONS COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY



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Planning and operating together

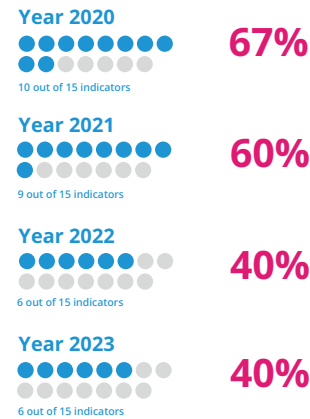
UN entities in Bosnia and Herzegovina sustained their joint efforts focusing on delivering cohesive results, and enhancing operations, communication and advocacy.

Building on the key ideas and actions outlined in the United Nations Secretary-General's Data Strategy,

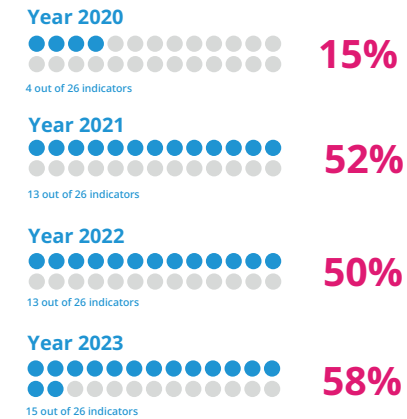
his vision for the future of global cooperation (Our Common Agenda), the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy, UN Youth Strategy and other global agendas, the UNCT in BiH developed and endorsed the UN BiH Youth Strategy, UN BiH Disability Inclusion Strategy and UN BiH Data Strategy, which are now being implemented. The UN Team commitment to gender mainstreaming, youth and disability was further strengthened.

Progress in normative areas:

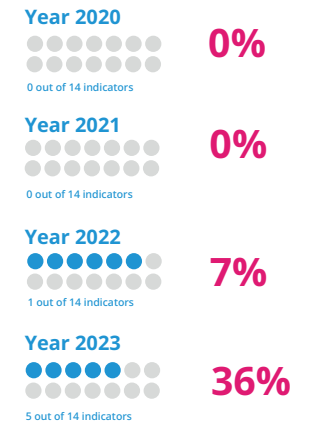
Gender⁴



Youth



Disability Inclusion



● Number of indicators that meet or exceed minimum requirements.

Sexual Exploitation Prevention:

UNCT mechanism and action plan for PSEA in place



⁴ The UNCT-SWAP Scorecard is a standardised assessment of UN country-level gender mainstreaming practices and performance that is aimed at ensuring the accountability of senior managers and improving the UNCT performance. In 2020, the Scorecard assessment encompassed 15 indicators for UNDAF. Noting the new Cooperation Framework was introduced in 2021, the first-ever comprehensive scorecard assessment was conducted for BiH in 2022, for all 15 indicators for UNSDCF 2021–2025. In 2023, a detailed assessment was completed on a selected 5 of 15 indicators.

As the UN in BiH has rolled out fully, and is utilising, UN INFO as the primary platform for enhanced planning, implementation and monitoring of the UNSDCF, this has strengthened the transparency and efficiency of its engagement in the country and the partnership dialogue with authorities and other partners. All information related to UNSDCF for the period 2021–2025, including the status of activities, supporting budgets, sources of funding, implementing partners, geographical scope and contributions to the SDGs, is publicly and instantly accessible through UN INFO to all partners and stakeholders. In 2023, UN BiH implemented ten, including three new, joint programmes and prepared for implementation of an additional programme set to start in 2024.

Guided by the UN–BiH Partnership and Resource Mobilisation Strategy adopted in early 2023, the UN in BiH established a structured and regular coordination mechanism with the international development partners. This mechanism enabled a more coordinated, cohesive and strategic policy dialogue between the UN and its development partners and established joint advocacy and programmatic partnerships within the SDG and EU accession agendas in the country.

Furthermore, the UN in BiH initiated a feasibility assessment of the setting up of a country-level, pooled fund to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to support BiH's aspiration to join the EU. It is expected that such a fund would enable mobilisation and leveraging of additional funding by providing access to traditional and non-traditional, resident and non-resident contributors and securing a more flexible and unearmarked source of funding to respond timely and adequately to changing and emerging development priorities.

In line with the outcomes of the 2023 SDG Summit, the UN initiated its support for translation of the global SDG transformative agenda in BiH, gearing it towards acceleration of implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the global level. With a focus on the key transformative areas with the greatest catalytic and multiplier effects across the SDGs (e.g., digital transformation, food systems, climate change, energy, social protection and jobs, and education) the

UN adopted a coordinated and cohesive approach. It partnered with relevant authorities in defining concrete policy and regulatory requirements, convening relevant BiH and international stakeholders, identifying bankable projects and recognising capacity-building needs. Embedded in its existing inter-agency coordination mechanism, this approach will continue in 2024, drawing upon the extensive UN mandates and expertise in a complementary and coordinated manner.

The Operations Management Team in BiH worked diligently to enhance the UN team's joint operations, aiming to eliminate duplication, maximise economies of scale and leverage the UN agencies' collective bargaining power. The UNCT have realised a cost-avoidance of more than USD 1 million since the launch of UNSDCF. With its expansion, almost all UN entities are co-located fully in UN House in Sarajevo.

Communicating together

Throughout 2023, communication and advocacy efforts were consistently pursued in alignment with the Joint UNCT BiH Communications Strategy. Led by the Resident Coordinator and the UN Communications Group, these initiatives bolstered the collaborative work of various agencies. The UNCT and staff were deeply involved in a broad spectrum of advocacy activities, the main topics of which throughout the year included human rights and media freedom, fighting violence against women, hate speech, tackling the climate emergency and ensuring food security.

On United Nations Day and the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UN in BiH and its agencies hosted the Third UN Festival #ImagineChange. The event was held at the Skenderija Youth Centre in Sarajevo, featured music, entertainers, face painting, interactive quizzes and games, and a fair showcasing the works and projects of UN agencies and partners in the country.



Third SDG Week in BiH: 17 events with >1,800 participants



International Day of Non-Violence and the 12 Days of Peace Campaign, marked with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs



International Youth Day was marked by a series of events under the campaign of the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, highlighting the resilience, resourcefulness and leadership of young people in building a better world for all



Video: #NoToHate - United Against Hate Speech

KEY FOCUS FOR 2024



© UNDP BiH, Prkoško Lake

In 2024, the UNCT will commence the preparation and formulation of the next UNSDCF for BiH to serve as the subsequent partnership strategy for the period 2026–2030. The process will be initiated with the final evaluation of the current UNSDCF and preparation of the Common Country Analysis (CCA) as the analytical baseline for preparation of the Framework. It will culminate in the formulation and operationalisation of UNSDCF in alignment with the SDG priorities outlined in the SDG Framework in BiH, endorsed by all authorities in April 2021, and in close coordination with the SDG Council and other relevant authorities, international partners, CSOs, the private sector and academia.

The Final Evaluation will inform the preparation process by providing lessons learned and best

practices in areas including programming, operations, UN coordination and stakeholder engagement. The CCA will analyse the progress of BiH towards the SDGs, socio-economic developments, political context and human rights situation, identifying critical challenges and root causes of inequalities. The preparations for the 4th Universal Periodic Review of BiH, scheduled for January 2025, will provide an opportunity for dialogue on specific human rights issues and with particular groups. The insights gathered will be incorporated into the CCA and UNSDCF. In addition, the CCA will integrate a dedicated Strategic Foresight exercise aimed to assess the different scenarios over the duration of the UNSDCF.

As the country advances further along the EU integration process, the UN in BiH will continue in 2024 to strengthen its collaborative efforts with the EU, focusing on aligning the 2030 Agenda with the EU's strategic goals for BiH and informing the preparation of UNSDCF 2026–2030 in terms of the EU integration priorities for the country. This will involve enhancing joint initiatives in key sectors such as energy and the green transition, digitalisation, human rights and gender equality, as well as human capital development, encompassing education, health and social protection. The UN–EU partnership is set to expand its scope, fostering greater visibility and advocacy and establishing innovative, multi-stakeholder partnerships that drive sustainable development and support BiH's progress towards EU integration.

In line with the Secretary-General's Policy Brief on UN 2.0, UN BiH will focus on nurturing cutting-edge expertise in areas such as data, innovation, digital technologies, behavioural science and strategic foresight. UN 2.0 provides a comprehensive framework for integrating technology and data into the UN's operations and objectives. To foster these new types of expertise, the UN is committed to cultivating organisational cultures that are agile, creative, curious, young, inclusive and grounded in gender equality. We will begin 2024 by digitally transforming UN internal processes, aiming to improve inter-agency digital collaboration and communication.

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• Publication
06 June 2023

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• Publication
01 May 2023

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• Publication
26 May 2023

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• Publication
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• Publication
06 October 2023

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• Publication
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Overcoming Crises: Reimagining Essential Services for Women Survivors of Violence in the Western Balkans aft...



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Women and Youth in Sarajevo Entrepreneurship Ecosystem




• Publication
01 September 2023

Embracing Gender Responsive Budgeting in Western Balkans, Initiatives in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina...



• Publication
07 September 2023

Scaling-up climate resilient flood risk management in Bosnia and Herzegovina




• Publication
20 December 2023

Workers' Representatives in selected Central and Eastern European Countries: Filling a Gap in Labour Rights Protectio...



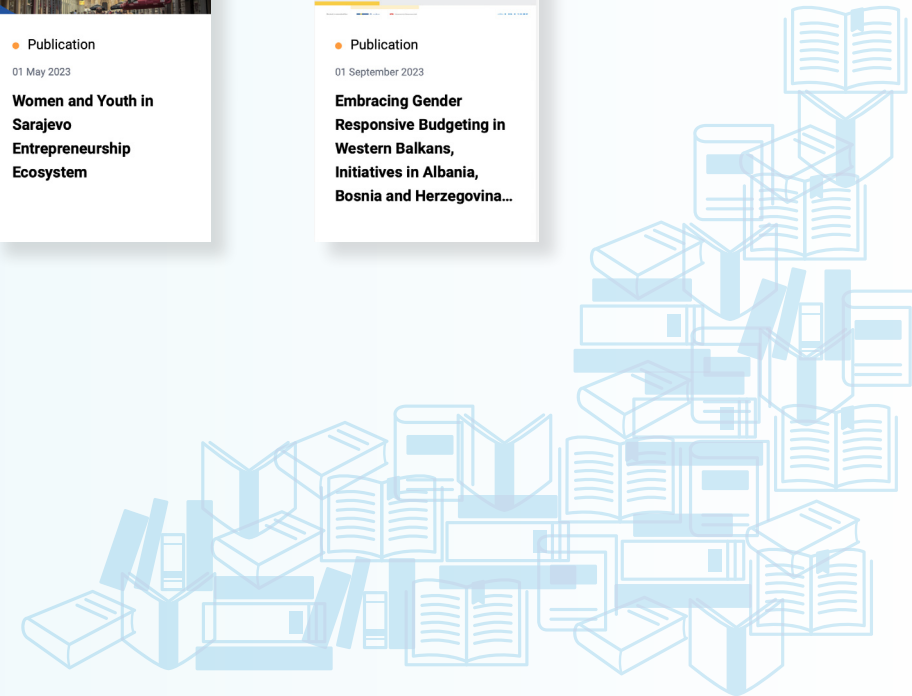
• Publication
11 October 2023

Policies, Incentives and Affirmative Measures for Improving the Position of Women in the Labour Market in Bosnia and...



• Publication
30 October 2023

Blueprint for BiH's Gender-responsive Just Transition for All



PARTNERS



Governmental and Public Institutions:

BD⁵ Department of Economic Development, Sports and Culture
 BD Department of Education
 BD Department of Health and Other Services
 BD Employment Institute
 BD Pedagogical Institute
 BiH Accreditation Institute
 BiH Agency for Gender Equality
 BiH Agency for Pre-school, Primary and Secondary Education
 BiH Agency for Statistics
 BiH Armed Forces
 BiH Border Police
 BiH Central Election Commission
 BiH Council of Ministers
 BiH Directorate for European Integration
 BiH Food Safety Agency
 BiH High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council
 BiH Human Rights Ombudsman
 BiH Indirect Taxation Authority
 BiH Audit Office Institution
 BiH Judicial Police
 BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs
 BiH Ministry of Communications and Transport
 BiH Ministry of Defence
 BiH Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 BiH Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations
 BiH Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees
 BiH Ministry of Justice
 BiH Ministry of Security
 BiH Parliamentary Assembly
 BiH Service for Foreigners' Affairs
 BiH Veterinary Office
 BPK Ministry of Education, Youth, Science, Culture and Sport
 BPK Ministry of Justice, Administration and Labour Relations
 BPK Pedagogical Institute
 Cantonal Centre for Social Work, Sarajevo
 Centre for Social Work, Bihac
 Centre for Social Work, Bosanski Petrovac
 City of Banja Luka
 City of Bihac
 City of Bijeljina
 City of Capljina
 City of Istočno, Sarajevo
 City of Laktaši
 City of Mostar
 City of Prijedor
 City of Sarajevo
 City of Trebinje
 City of Tuzla
 City of Zvornik
 FBiH Bureau of Statistics
 FBiH Civil Protection Administration
 FBiH Economic and Social Council
 FBiH Employment Institute
 FBiH Environmental Fund
 FBiH Gender Centre
 FBiH Government
 FBiH Hydrometeorological Institute
 FBiH Institute for Public Health
 FBiH Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry
 FBiH Ministry of Culture and Sports

FBiH Ministry of Development, Entrepreneurship and Crafts
 FBiH Ministry of Education and Science
 FBiH Ministry of Energy, Mining and Industry
 FBiH Ministry of Environment and Tourism
 FBiH Ministry of Finance
 FBiH Ministry of Health
 FBiH Ministry of Internal Affairs
 FBiH Ministry of Justice
 FBiH Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
 FBiH Ministry of Spatial Planning
 FBiH Ministry of Transport and Communications
 HNK Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports
 HNK Ministry of Justice, Administration and Local Self-Government
 HNK Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Environmental Protection
 HNK Pedagogical Institute
 K10 Ministry of Justice and Administration
 K10 Ministry of Science, Education, Culture and Sport
 KS Educational and Pedagogical Institute
 KS Ministry of Justice and Administration
 KS Ministry of Upbringing and Education
 Municipality of Bosanski Petrovac
 Municipality of Čelić
 Municipality of Foca-Ustokolina
 Municipality of Fojnica
 Municipality of Gacko
 Municipality of Kakanj
 Municipality of Lopare
 Municipality of Osmaći
 Municipality of Pale-Prača
 Municipality of Rogatica
 Municipality of Rudo
 Municipality of Ugljevik
 Municipality of Višegrad
 PK Ministry of Justice and Administration
 Public Institution for Tourism Development and Protection of Cultural, Historical and Natural Heritage of Radimlja, Stolac
 RS Civil Protection Administration
 RS Economic and Social Council
 RS Employment Institute
 RS Environmental Fund
 RS Gender Centre
 RS Government
 RS Hydrometeorological Institute
 RS Institute for Public Health
 RS Ministry for European Integration and International Cooperation
 RS Ministry for Scientific-Technological Development, Higher Education and Information Society
 RS Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
 RS Ministry of Economy and Entrepreneurship
 RS Ministry of Education and Culture
 RS Ministry of Energy and Mining
 RS Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports
 RS Ministry of Finance
 RS Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
 RS Ministry of Industry and Trade
 RS Ministry of Justice
 RS Ministry of Labour, War Veterans and Disabled People's Protection
 RS Ministry of Spatial Planning, Construction and Ecology
 RS Ministry of the Interior
 RS Ministry of Trade and Tourism
 RS Pedagogical Institute
 RS Statistical Institute
 SBK Ministry of Education, Science, Youth, Culture and Sport
 SBK Ministry of Justice and Administration

TK Ministry of Education and Science
 TK Ministry of Justice and Administration
 TK Pedagogical Institute
 USK Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport
 USK Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Policy
 USK Ministry of Justice and Administration
 USK Pedagogical Institute
 ZDK Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport
 ZDK Ministry of Justice and Administration
 ZDK Pedagogical Institute
 ZHK Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport
 ZHK Ministry of Justice and Administration



Civil Society Organisations and International Organisations:

Asocijacija inženjera elektrotehnike Alumni
 Association of Employers of the Federation of BiH
 Association of Social Workers FBiH
 Asylum, Refugee Regional Initiative
 BHIDAPA
 BiH Press Council
 Bosnia and Herzegovina Women's Initiative
 Catholic Relief Services
 Danish Refugee Council
 EDUS
 FBiH Association of Employers
 FBiH Youth Council
 Fondacija Lara
 Foundation of Local Democracy
 Genesis Project
 INFOHOUSE Foundation
 Kali Sara
 Kolektiv
 Laboratorijum
 Mozaik Foundation
 Nasa djeca Sarajevo
 Nauka i svijet
 Nova generacija
 Roma Women's Association *Bolja Buducnost* Tuzla
 RS Association of Psychologists
 RS Association of Social Workers
 RS Union of Employers
 RS Youth Council
 Save the Children
 Soccer Academy, Bihac
 Vaša prava
 Vive Zene
 World Vision International
 Youth Sports Foundation



Academia:

Faculty of Philosophy, Banja Luka
 University of Banja Luka
 University of Sarajevo



Private Sector:

Addiko Bank
 Bit Alliance
 dm-drogerie markt
 Violeta
 Zadruga Plantprom p.o.



Other:

European Broadcasting Union
 European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina
 South-East European Cooperation Initiative



Contributing partners:



5 BD, Brčko District; HNK, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton; K10, Canton 10; KS, Sarajevo Canton; PK, Posavina Canton; SBK, Central Bosnia Canton; TK, Tuzla Canton; USK, Una-Sana Canton; ZDK, Zenica-Doboj Canton;



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