



UNITED NATIONS
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



2020 UN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

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FOREWORD

For the United Nations 2020 marked the year where we would kick-start the 'Decade of Action' to accelerate efforts to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals as part of the 2030 Agenda. Yet only three months into the year the COVID-19 pandemic upended our lives, economies and societies. Globally the pandemic pushed an estimated 114 million people into extreme poverty, of which almost 58 million were women and girls, and it has had a significant impact on progress toward achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

2020 was also the year in which the United Nations marked its 75th anniversary. In 1945, the United Nations Charter set forth the principles for a multilateral system in the name of 'We the Peoples' resolved to combine efforts to advance peace and security, human rights and socioeconomic development. The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the relevance and necessity of solidarity between nations and peoples as well as the importance of our collective pursuit of a more just, fair, dignified, prosperous and peaceful world for all.

For the United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2020 was the final year of the 2015–2020 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). Under this framework, the United Nations has accelerated investment in efficient energy production and consumption, reducing CO2 emissions, and creating more than 1,800 green jobs. The United Nations has also supported government and civil society in advancing gender equality, including ensuring that 40 local governments have specialised services to serve women experiencing violence, and worked with

youth networks, civil society organisations and academia to engage across borders and to strengthen regional cooperation and dialogue on their collective future.

At the same time, 2020 was a year of adaptation as the United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina shifted its attention and resources to support the immediate response to and recovery from the pandemic. Over thirty sectoral and multisectoral assessments were conducted to produce the comprehensive United Nations Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Offer for Bosnia and Herzegovina. Acting swiftly and working with the authorities and our partners the United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina repurposed operations to be able to provide 11.5 million pieces of life-saving medical equipment, testing kits and necessary supplies to the relevant institutions. Employment or income generation opportunities were provided to 4,700 people and e-learning and blended learning was supported to ensure that 105,000 children could access education. Between January and December over 35,000 people on the move and registered in Temporary Reception Centres received humanitarian aid and assistance.

While managing the pandemic and building upon two years of work, in 2020 the entity governments and Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted an [SDG Framework for Bosnia and Herzegovina](#). This was the first countrywide sustainable development strategy for the country in many years. The United Nations and the authorities also finalised the first ever United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Bosnia and Herzegovina 2021–2025. Our 75th anniversary conversation, to which

over 1,400 people from Bosnia and Herzegovina contributed reaffirmed that a greener, cleaner, more inclusive and fairer future is 'The Future We Want' across the globe and in this country.

As the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Bosnia and Herzegovina I would like to offer the condolences of the entire United Nations team to all those who have suffered because of the pandemic, especially those who lost family and friends. As we move forward into 2021 I reaffirm our commitment as the United Nations to work in partnership with all people in Bosnia and Herzegovina toward the recovery and to ensure that sustainable development, human rights, peace and security are mutually reinforcing. I also share my appreciation for our partners who have worked with us and supported our efforts, because these achievements would not have been possible without their solidarity and generosity.



Ingrid Macdonald

The United Nations Resident Coordinator in Bosnia and Herzegovina

UN COUNTRY TEAM

Fifteen UN agencies, funds and programmes comprise the United Nations Country Team in Bosnia and Herzegovina, chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator, the designated representative of the UN Secretary General for development operations in the country.

As a family of specialised agencies, the United Nations Country Team works with partners in support of Agenda2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals. Merging the comparative advantages of the various UN organisations under the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2015-2020), the UN in Bosnia and Herzegovina provides tailor-made solutions addressing the needs of the most vulnerable, the disadvantaged and those who are at risk of social exclusion in the country.

Agencies with a country office



International
Labour
Organization



IOM
THE UNITED NATIONS
MIGRATION AGENCY



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



World Health
Organization

Project offices with an in-country presence



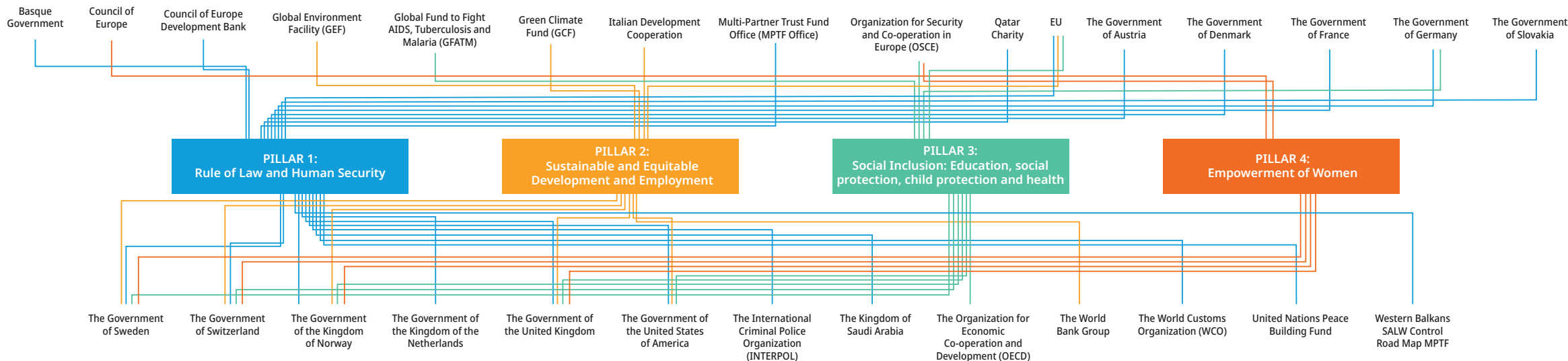
Non-resident agencies



IAEA
International Atomic Energy Agency



CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS 2020



2020 KEY COUNTRY DEVELOPMENTS

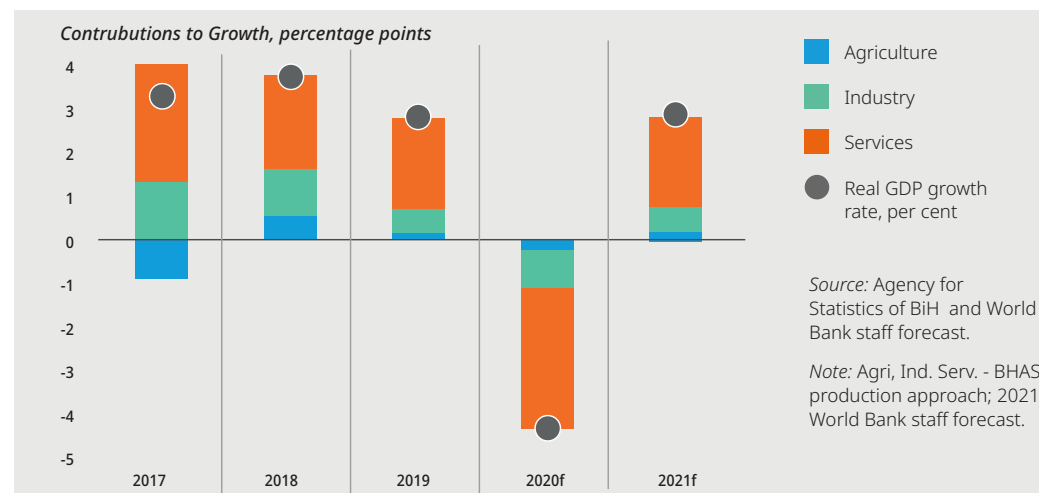
Bosnia and Herzegovina has achieved a great deal since the 1990s, including dramatic increases in economic growth and stability with EU accession and more recently Agenda 2030 serving as mutually reinforcing and complimentary processes.

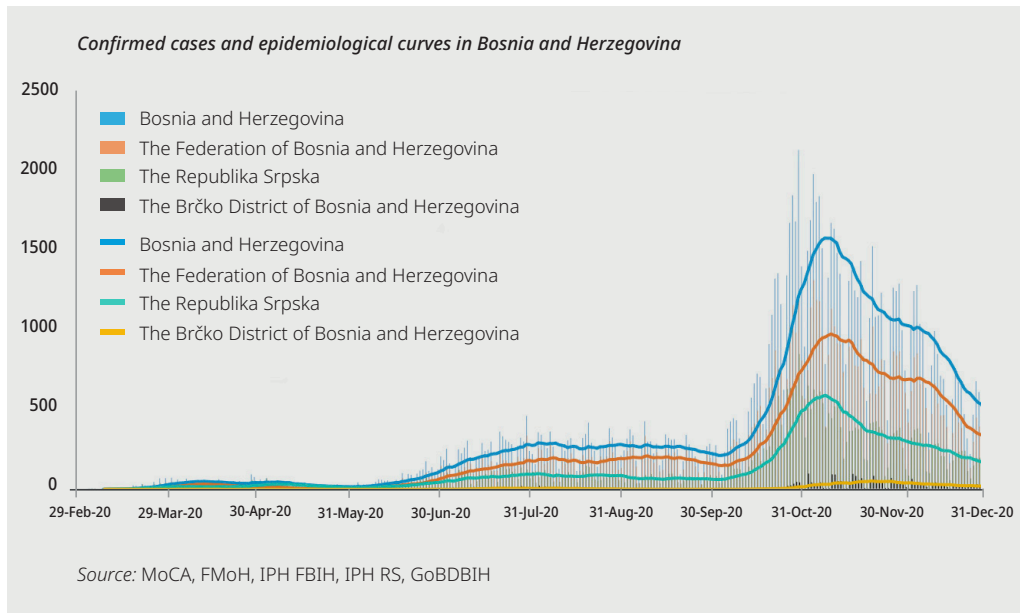
Between 1990 and 2019, life expectancy at birth in Bosnia and Herzegovina increased by 6.5 years, mean years of schooling increased by 2.8 years and expected years of schooling increased by 2.2 years. Over the same period, GNI per capita increased by around 737.8 per cent. In 2020, Bosnia and Herzegovina placed 73 on the [Human Development Index](#).

Before the COVID-19 pandemic the economy was stable and growing, with a pre-crisis average growth rate of 3 per cent. Following the declaration of

COVID-19 as a global pandemic in March 2020, the economy contracted sharply by over 5.5 per cent according to the IMF. At the same time, falling tax revenue and higher current expenditure on COVID-19 related measures created an imbalance in the macro-fiscal landscape, cushioned by the country's relatively low public debt rate of 39.6 per cent. Nonetheless, falling internal and external demand, particularly within services, tourism and industry, led the already high unemployment rate to grow by 3 per cent.

With more than 111,000 confirmed cases and over 4,000 casualties as of December 2020 the immediate public health response to the surges of cases placed an exceptional burden on the public health systems and health services. Frontline workers worked hard to manage the influx of new patients during





of violence. The changes that occurred in family dynamics in the context of migration also contributed to the occurrence of sexual and other forms of gender-based violence in families as well as among unaccompanied and separated children.

total population of over 50 per cent decreasing from around 3.5 million today down to just 1.5 million in 2070, of which over 40 per cent will be over working age.

[Read more: Rapid Gender Assessment of COVID-19 in Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)

[Read more: Population Situation Analysis in Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)

The 2020 Population Situation Analysis confirmed that Bosnia and Herzegovina is the country with the “lowest low” in fertility in the world (1.25). In 2020, demographic analysis conducted by statistical institutions with UN support show that current trends suggest that the share of older persons in the total population will increase to over 40 per cent by 2070 as a combined result of the high level of outward migration and population ageing. Whereas in the 1970s there were 10 people aged between 0-19 years for every one older person there will be less than 0.33 persons aged 0-19 to each older person by 2070. If these trends continue this will lead to a decline in the

Despite the political context and the COVID-19 pandemic the country managed to advance implementation of the 2030 Agenda by finalising the SDG Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which offers the first countrywide strategic vision for sustainable development in over a decade. This framework (submitted for formal endorsement by the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina at the end of 2020 and approved on 8 April 2021) established a framework for the alignment of strategies, policies and resources across various levels of government in the country and acts as the basis for partnerships aimed at the achievement of the SDGs in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

the peak infection cycles, while action to prevent recurrence through effective but restrictive outbreak control measures was often reactive rather than preventive. Faced at times with the risk of the existing COVID-19 response capacities becoming exhausted, international partners spearheaded and coordinated by the United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina responded by delivering urgent support, including the procurement of medical equipment, PPE and training, throughout 2020.

of this offer. Roma children in particular were affected disproportionately accounting for at least 6 per cent of children without access to ICT and the Internet. Pre-schoolers were the biggest out-of-school group during the lockdown with 82 per cent of children having their preschool attendance interrupted during the lockdown.

[Read more: Rapid Situation and Needs Assessment - Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)

COVID-19 also put severe pressure on education. In December 2019, the OECD published the first [PISA scores for Bosnia and Herzegovina](#). These results demonstrate that Bosnia and Herzegovina placed 62nd out of 79 countries on the 2018 PISA test. The COVID-19 pandemic caused the education authorities to include most children in e-learning: 99 per cent of children and youth enrolled in primary, secondary and tertiary education had basic access to e-learning. Yet many children did not have adequate access to information communication technology (ICT) and the Internet and were therefore unable to take advantage

Women were hit hardest by the economic impact caused by COVID-19. Often engaged in part-time, informal and low-wage employment, many women had only limited access to social security, pension and health insurance to cushion the impact of the economic downturn. At a time when essential support services for the survivors of domestic and gender-based violence were made inaccessible, many women were forced to ‘lockdown’ with perpetrators



UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM SUPPORT TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (2015–2020)

The work of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Bosnia and Herzegovina over the last six years was guided by the 2015–2020 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), which was endorsed by the Council of Ministers on 14 May 2015. Thirteen outcomes were agreed within the 2015–2020 UNDAF in four strategic focus areas that respond to the country's needs and make use of the United Nations comparative advantages.

Pillar 1 - Rule of Law and Human Security

Pillar 2 - Sustainable and Equitable Development and Employment

Pillar 3 - Social Inclusion: Education, social protection, child protection and health

Pillar 4 - Empowerment of Women

The UNDAF was operationalized through four biennial United Nations Joint Work Plans (JWPs) at the output and activity level that correspond to the four UNDAF focus areas, prepared in close consultation with the relevant country authorities and approved by the Bosnia and Herzegovina/United Nations Joint Steering Committee (JSC). With the overall responsibility to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the UNDAF in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the JSC provided strategic guidance and oversight during the 2015–2020 UNDAF implementation, endorsed the JWPs and reviewed the annual reports. In addition to the UNCT, the JSC is comprised of authorities from the state, entity and Brčko District levels in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition, the United Nations works closely and maintains a dialogue with civil society, the media, academic institutions and the private sector in the country.

In line with the Decision of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina from 2018, UNDAF was

extended for one year up until 2020 in order to better align the process of preparation of the next UNDAF for Bosnia and Herzegovina with the election cycle and the new EU programming cycle as well as with some of the key planning processes in the country.

Key results achieved since the beginning of the UNDAF cycle.

Following discussions between the United Nations Secretary-General and the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2014, the United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina has worked over the last six years to **foster social cohesion and regional cooperation** through the Dialogue for the Future Initiative. Starting in Bosnia and Herzegovina with a focus on youth, education and culture, in 2016 this programme was subsequently expanded into Serbia and Montenegro.

Following the devastating floods in 2014 and 2015 the United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina implemented **the largest flood recovery assistance programme in the history of the country**, bringing change in the quality of life to more than half a million people (40% women) in flood-affected areas. By offering fast people-centred and efficient recovery assistance the United Nations, with support from donors and governments amounting to USD 73.5 million, helped set the country back on its path of socioeconomic development. Since 2014, the United Nations has continued to offer **emergency response and recovery** support as well as disaster risk reduction to more than 600,000 people by renovating more than 6,082 homes, rehabilitating more than 150 public facilities and safeguarding more than 5,000 jobs.

In response to the increased number of arrivals and the presence of **migrants and asylum seekers in Bosnia and Herzegovina** between 2018 and 2020



the United Nations supported the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina in opening six temporary reception centres, in addition to the Emergency Tent Camp 'Lipa'. This provided accommodation and assistance (including 8.2 million meals and 1.6 million non-food items) for between 5,000 and 8,000 migrants and asylum seekers each day for a total of almost 60,000 migrants and asylum seekers.



8.2 million meals



1.6 million non-food items



370,000 households



either gained access to or had an improved quality of water supply and wastewater services

30,000 women and men



benefited from employment or income generation opportunities

assessment of the key challenges for gender equality within the context of sustainable development in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Consultations were conducted with 15 partners from the United Nations, government, international partners and 310 surveyed stakeholders. The CGEP was updated in 2020 to include the key findings identified through the process of the Rapid Gender Assessment of COVID-19 in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the United Nations Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) and in response to the Concluding Observation of the CEDAW Committee from the Sixth Periodic Review.

Between 2015 and 2020 the United Nations supported institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina in improving the legislation, policies and services that provide the survivors of **conflict-related sexual violence** with recognition, reparations and support. The comprehensive approach allowed encompassment of the diverse needs and rights of survivors, including physical, reproductive and mental health, access to justice, meaningful inclusion in society and economic empowerment. The United Nations further engaged with civil society, the media, religious communities and youth in order to combat the stigma that surrounds this crime and its victims.



500,000 women

(including rural women, women with disabilities and Roma women) now have access to response mechanisms

that supports female survivors of violence.



With the support of the United Nations, during the period 2014–2020 more than 370,000 households gained access to or improved quality of water supply and wastewater services and more than 30,000 women and men benefited from employment or income generation opportunities countrywide. The United Nations team continuously supported the authorities in strengthening policy frameworks, enhancing the capacity for diaspora engagement in development and helped connect knowledge, resources and financing from diaspora for the socioeconomic development of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Since energy production and consumption (particularly in buildings) is the largest source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the country, the **Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) joined forces to support** government at all levels in Bosnia and Herzegovina in advancing climate change mitigation efforts by using innovative approaches and accelerating investment in energy efficiency aimed at transformational change. **The cooperation between**

these two global climate funds (GCF and GEF) has proven critical in accelerating climate resilient development in the country. These efforts have been geared toward further strengthening and scaling up the nationwide energy management information system (EMIS) and the creation of innovative financial mechanisms that have helped boost energy efficiency in public buildings and the public lighting sector as well as increased water saving measures.

The United Nations ensured that 500,000 women **gained access to multisectoral support for female survivors of violence at the municipal level.** As a result of the support dedicated to government institutions and female led civil society organisations, 40 local governments now have multisectoral response teams and specialised services that consistently serve women at risk and women experiencing violence.

The Country Gender Equality Profile (CGEP) that was finalised in 2020 serves as both an analytical and operational document that **provides a solid**

2020 RESULTS

Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina provided immediate support to frontline workers and the health systems and worked to ensure that no one was left behind. A Bosnia and Herzegovina Covid-19 Strategic Response and Preparedness Plan was completed with the Ministry of Civil Affairs and the relevant health authorities and parallel to this the United Nations readjusted strategies and programming under the 2016–2020 UNDAF in order to support the health system, the economy, social protection and education and social cohesion through a dedicated [UN COVID-19 Socio-Economic Recovery Offer](#).

[Find out more about the first 60 days of the cross-sectorial Covid-19 response efforts here.](#)

The [United Nations COVID-19 Socio-Economic Recovery Offer](#) was embedded in the development of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2021–2025) as well as in country priorities and response and coordination mechanisms and is recognised globally as an example of ensuring that recovery from COVID includes a focus on 'building back better' through green economy, innovation and digital solutions.¹

Based on the offer, the United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina secured USD 79 million through repurposed and new programmes for COVID-19 related actions with the support of donors and partners. In the following pages you can read more about the key results achieved across all four strategic focus areas of the UNDAF in 2020: 1) Rule of Law and Human Security, 2) Sustainable and Equitable Development and Employment, 3) Social Inclusion (education, social protection, child protection, child protection and health) and 4) the Empowerment of Women.



Planned budget for 2020:

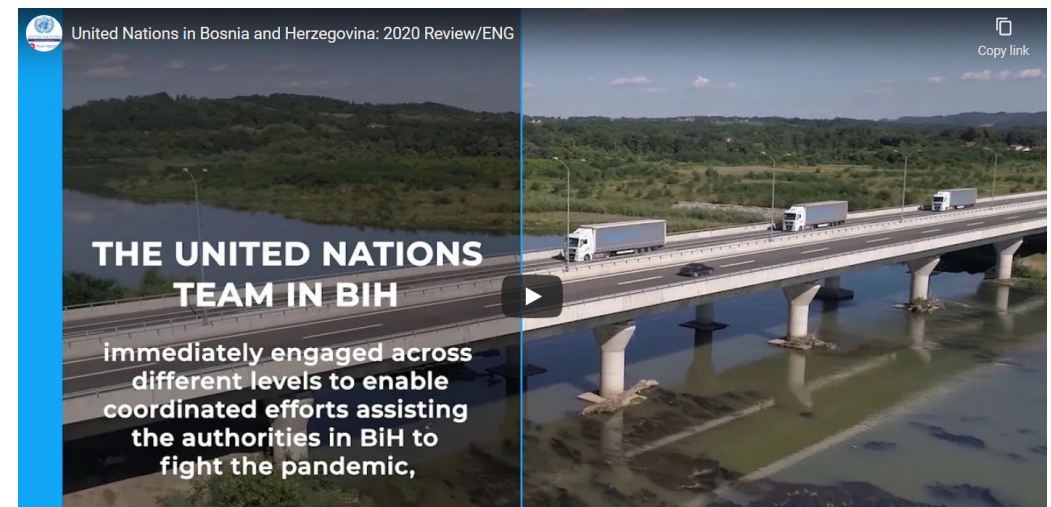
USD 101,514,802

Expenditures 2020:

USD 113,609,747



Video: [United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina: 2020 Review](#)



¹ Review of socioeconomic response plans by UNDP - DCO

PILLAR 1

Rule of Law and Human Security

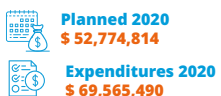
Alignment with SDGs:



Contributing UN Agencies:

IOM, UNDP, UNECE, UNESCO (chair), UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNODC

Budget:



In 2020, the major contribution of the United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina came in the areas of the Rule of Law and in Human Security through three outcomes: (Outcome 1) Improved access to justice, non-discrimination and equality under the rule of law; (Outcome 2) Consolidation and strengthening mechanisms for the peaceful resolution of conflicts, reconciliation, respect for diversity and community security and (Outcome 3) Strengthened prevention of and responsiveness to human-caused and natural disasters.



In 2020, United Nations agencies continued to support the government migration management efforts by providing accommodation, **humanitarian aid and assistance to migrants and asylum seekers registered in TRCs in Bira, Borići, Blažuj, Sedra, Miral and Ušivak and ETC Lipa**. Between January and December there were over 35,000 registrations at these facilities by people transiting through Bosnia and Herzegovina. Through the **Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration** programme 227 men, women and children returned to their countries. Moreover, 3,474 migrant and asylum seeker women/girls and men/boys were empowered in prevention and protection in regard to gender-based violence, improved mental health and life skills. In addition, the United Nations ensured provision of sexual and reproductive health services to 1,355 migrants and asylum seekers and strengthened the capacities of 3,565 migrants and asylum seekers in relation to COVID-19 health awareness and prevention.”

Although COVID-19 had an impact on support for **returnees and IDPs under Annex VII**, the United Nations continued to monitor the implementation of the Regional Housing Programme and advocated with the authorities to ensure durable solutions for the most vulnerable individuals by supporting **access to free legal aid**. The United Nations supported the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding on Prevention of Violent Extremism in Brčko District and the drafting of Amendments to the Law on Non-Contentious Procedure of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina allowing children born in Syria and repatriated to Bosnia and Herzegovina to receive **birth certificates and citizenship rights**. Moreover, advocacy was provided for immediate registration of births for children born in Bosnia and Herzegovina by parents who were not formally registered as asylum seekers.

The United Nations continued to support the strengthening of the country's integrated **border management capacities**. The focus was on addressing illicit arms trafficking, improved border security and freight control as well as enhancement of the legal and operational environment and

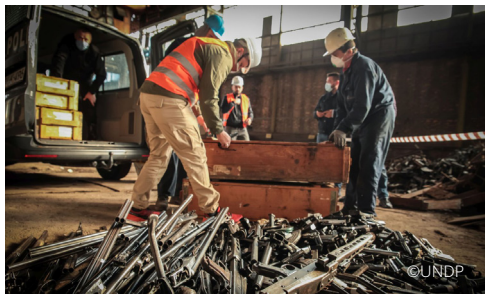
Children born in Syria

repatriated to Bosnia and Herzegovina were enabled to receive birth certificates and citizenship rights.



gender equality in law enforcement agencies. As a result, 2,000 illegally trafficked small arms and light weapons were seized and destroyed by the respective authorities. The United Nations supported the operationalization of the reformed **counter-trafficking** referral mechanism, the development of a new strategy, related local action plans at different levels of government and a new database of victims of trafficking. This resulted in a higher number of victims being identified in 2020 compared to previous years.

In the area of **money laundering**, the United Nations increased the capacities and enhanced the effectiveness of law enforcement representatives in terms of countering illicit cross-border activities and halting high risk shipments whilst facilitating legitimate trade. The United Nations supported the design of the **new Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Strategy 2021-2024** and assisted the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina in minimising the risk of an unplanned explosion of ammunition. The United Nations supported the Ministry of Communications and Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the preparation of the **Bosnia and Herzegovina Framework Road Safety Strategy for 2021-2025** for the most critical road safety system areas in the country in line with EU safety standards.



2,000
illegally trafficked small arms and
light weapons seized and destroyed

Based on an assessment of the implementation of **the Republika Srpska Law on Protection and Treatment of Children and Juveniles in Criminal Proceedings**, the United Nations supported the development of amendments to the legislation that were adopted by the Parliament of Republika Srpska in 2020. These are expected to improve implementation of diversion measures, the protection of victims and witness and child-friendly interviewing significantly.

In close collaboration with the authorities, more than 150,000 children from over 400 primary and secondary schools benefitted from **school based secondary prevention programmes** aimed at enhancing the well-being and protection of children and adolescents through early identification and risk factor support.

In the area of **peacebuilding and reconciliation** the United Nations continued to facilitate structured inclusive dialogue platforms, engaging more than 1,500 representatives of civil society, youth, academia, the media, and policymakers in and between Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro. This contributed to greater cross-border cooperation, fostered dialogue and strengthened social cohesion among people. The United Nations supported 19 cross-border grant projects enabling 43 partnerships and involving more than 7,500 beneficiaries across the region.

1,500 representatives

of civil society, youth, academia,
media, and policy-makers from
Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia
and Montenegro



 **19** cross-border
grant projects

43 partnerships 

 **7,500** beneficiaries

The United Nations conducted a COVID-19 impact assessment on youth and supported the adaptation of the global YouthAgainstCOVID19 campaign and launched six videos covering different topics: COVID-19 prevention, youth engagement, sexual and reproductive health, gender equality and mental health. Furthermore, the United Nations supported the establishment or strengthening of 35 youth centres and networks engaging 5,623 youth and worked with municipal councils in order to ensure support for the continuation of their activities.

35 youth centres
and networks established.



The United Nations further supported the authorities in enhancing their **disaster risk management** capacities. Highlight results in 2020 include mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into strategies or preparedness plans in more than 50 per cent of local governments, support for medical waste management, implementation of technical measures for landslide and flood prevention and capacity development of communities and institutions on climate change. Moreover, a **joint DRR programme** continued to strengthen the capacities of local multisectoral DRR platforms in 10 high-risk local governments.



50% of local governments

mainstreamed disaster risk reduction into
their strategies or preparedness plans.

Our stories

Dialogue for the Future: Deeds louder than words

Check out the DFF experiences of young people in our video story: Nikša Zovko from Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Kalena Kujundžić from Vranje (Serbia) and Nina Vuković from Risno (Montenegro).

Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration

Nafis (27) and Fatma (26) together with their three children decided to leave Bosnia and Herzegovina and return to their homeland; they left Iraq just over a year ago.

"I believe that the path to recovery from coronavirus will be difficult, but above all we must show humanity and solidarity." Jean Marc Bogmis who arrived in Bosnia and Herzegovina as a football player in 1999 said that political circumstances in Cameroon (his homeland) forced him to seek asylum in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"We must focus on how to protect human rights in humanitarian crises and how to save lives as the first priority and reduce the number of potential victims of this difficult time." Saria Aboukaf is an empowerment officer and a team leader responsible for the activities in women and girls centres and 'boys on the move' centres at the Ušivak and Blažuj Temporary Reception Centres.

"Despite all these difficulties I am confident that together we can make a difference and be responsible, for everyone's benefit." Azra Ibrahimović-Srebrenica is the Camp Manager of the first Temporary Reception Centre opened in Sarajevo Canton.

PILLAR 2

Sustainable and Equitable Development and Employment

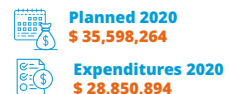
Alignment with SDGs:



Contributing UN Agencies:

ILO, IOM, UNDP (chair), UNICEF, UNECE, UNEP and UNESCO

Budget:



Under the UNDAF, United Nations assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina in the area of Sustainable and Equitable Development and Employment (Outcome 4) contributed to a *decrease in economic and social disparities* through the adoption of a coordinated approach by various actors. Outcome 5, *enhancement and operationalization of the legal and strategic frameworks in order to ensure sustainable management of natural, cultural and energy resources*, and Outcome 6, *greater access to productive employment and income opportunities*, were enabled by improved articulation and coordination of employment, education and scientific policies and programmes.



©UNDP

In 2020, the efforts of the United Nations team shifted primarily to supporting the authorities' response to and preparation for recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The United Nations led the **socioeconomic impact assessments** that informed the authorities recovery efforts and also supported the development of the **Reporting Platform for Covid-19 and the SDGs in Bosnia and Herzegovina**. With United Nations support, **more than 4,700 people benefited from employment or income generation opportunities** that contributed to keeping people out of poverty and alleviated the negative impact of the crisis. Two employers organisations were provided with survey tools to help them evaluate the needs of companies arising from the COVID-19 crisis and to use them in the economic recovery policy dialogue.

4,700 people benefited from employment or income generation opportunities.



©UNDP



UNDP

The United Nations contributed to strengthening private sector competitiveness by supporting the authorities in introducing public financing instruments for private sector development, by helping 300 small and medium-sized enterprises to modernise their business models, by improving the entrepreneurial skills of 350 women and men and by assisting in the registration of 80 new start-ups. The United Nations continued to promote **digital literacy among girls and young women and the closing of the digital gender gap**. Adapting to the 'new normal' set by the COVID-19 crisis, the United Nations team organised 13 #ITGirlsGoOnline webinars for girls from across the entire country that enabled them to gain new skills and knowledge from renowned female IT professionals.



300 small and medium-sized enterprises modernised their business models.

The **strategic planning and development management systems in both entities were set in function in 2020, guided by the relevant regulatory frameworks**. Countrywide, 90 per cent of local governments and all 10 cantons in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina developed their new development strategies. The capabilities and structures developed within the public strategic planning system are vital to the successful implementation of the **SDG Framework for Bosnia and Herzegovina**, which was developed with the support of the United Nations. The country-initiated efforts toward **digital transformation in the public and private sectors** were accelerated by the COVID-19 crisis. Quality policy support provided to the authorities across all levels of government resulted in **more effective and accessible public services for 370,000 citizens (40% women)**.

370,000 citizens received more effective and accessible public services.

With the support of the United Nations, the **new Strategy on Cooperation with Diaspora** was developed to stimulate the engagement of diaspora in the development of the country. The United Nations facilitated knowledge exchange and development-oriented networking among diaspora and academia and the public and private sectors in the country and implemented pilot initiatives aimed at reducing the mass emigration of professionals in the IT and health sectors.

The United Nations **continued to lead climate action efforts in the country** with impactful development results in the areas of energy efficiency, low-carbon economy and disaster risk management. Bosnia and Herzegovina developed the **Nationally Determined Contributions** in 2020, which sets the path toward zero-carbon development. Through energy efficiency interventions the United Nations supported a **reduction of 13,150 tonnes of CO2 emissions, improved indoor conditions for more than 250,000 people and the creation of more than 1,800 green jobs since 2015**. The set UNDAF target of not exceeding 31.46 million metric tonnes of carbon dioxide by 2020 has been achieved. The United Nations supported the **'Review of the situation for the development of the green economy in Bosnia and Herzegovina'** in order to further guide the country's efforts in this area.

There was a reduction
of 13,150 tonnes
of CO2 emissions



Indoor conditions improved for more than
250,000 people

1,800 green jobs
have been created since 2015

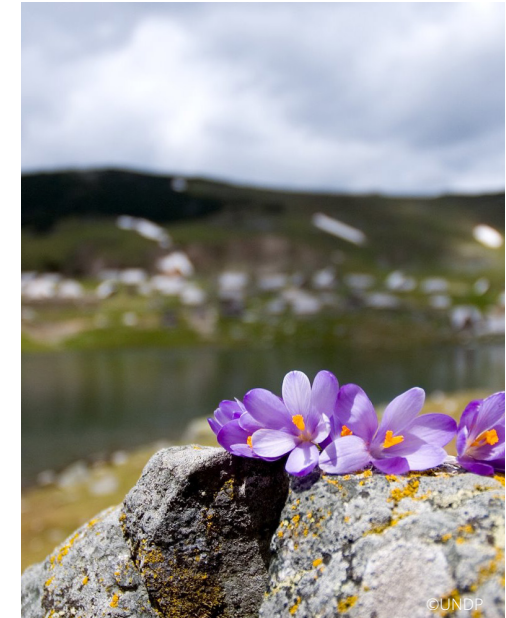


The United Nations work in the area of **natural and energy resource management** contributed to the country's transition toward low-emission and sustainable development. The **network of protected areas** in Bosnia and Herzegovina increased to 2.65 per cent of the total territory of the country (up from 2.26% in 2019), with the official designation of three new natural areas, enhanced capabilities for management of the protected areas and the adoption of the management planning documentation by the Government of Republika Srpska. A case study on Application of the United Nations Framework Classification (UNFC) in Bosnia and Herzegovina was developed and offers valuable analytical and policy direction for improved **integrated energy and groundwater resource management**.



The United Nations continued to support implementation of the **Strategy for Development of Science in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2017-2022** and its Action Plan. In the area of culture, the United Nations continued to support the authorities in implementing concrete interventions that contribute to the realisation of the **Action Plan for the Strategy for Cultural Policies in Bosnia and Herzegovina**, including activities from the newly adopted Cultural Strategy of Republika Srpska. The United Nations assisted in the development of the **Strategy of Sustainable Tourism Management at the World Heritage site 'Old Bridge Area of the Old City of Mostar'** and its Action Plan.

The network of protected areas
increased to 2.65%
of the total territory of the country



Our stories

Merima Kukić: Our joint dream came true

Twenty-seven year old Merima Kukić lost her job last year with the outbreak of Covid-19 but is now a young entrepreneur.

Years long dream came true for Puđa family

Cow, sheep and goat milk from pastures in Herzegovina is a valuable ingredient in cheeses that the Puđa family of Livno has been producing for decades, based on traditional recipes.

Company Koteks from Tešanj: Together with our employees we fight for survival

Inhabitants of Tešanj, known for their agility and resourcefulness, quickly adapted to the new situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Koteks transformed its production process in record time.

Professor doctor Milomir Ninković: The biggest tragedy of this country is the brain drain

Prof. dr. Milomir Ninković is a member of the diaspora from Bosnia and Herzegovina and a world-renowned expert in the field of plastic surgery and the author of more than 250 scientific papers published in international journals and more than 35 chapters in scientific books.

Kristina is ready for Back-to-School, Back-to-Art

"Often in wintertime we were too cold and the body finds it hard to warm up when the temperature is low. And for us, warm-up is key to prevent injuries."

PILLAR 3

Social Inclusion: Education, Social Protection, Child Protection and Health

Alignment with SDGs:



Contributing UN Agencies:

UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF (chair), UNODC and WHO

Budget:



The third focus area of the UNDAF was aimed at strengthening social systems and promoting a targeted approach toward the most vulnerable. The United Nations worked to ensure (Outcome 7) *Children and young people benefit from education tailored to their needs and abilities*, (Outcome 9) *targeted legislation, policies, budget allocations and inclusive social protection systems proactively protect the vulnerable*, and (Outcome 10) *strengthen the child protection systems in order to prevent and respond to cases of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect of children, including institutionalisation*. The provision of targeted health and public health planning documents and services, including management of major health risks, and promotion of targeted health seeking behaviour were enhanced (Outcome 11).



Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in Bosnia and Herzegovina in March 2020 the United Nations has actively supported the institutional response by the authorities to **prevent and reduce the spread of the COVID-19 crisis**, focusing particularly on the most vulnerable whilst also providing assistance to civil society organisations engaged in various areas of work. The United Nations collaborated closely with the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the public health departments in the entities and in Brčko District on technical issues related to all aspects of the COVID-19 emergency. It worked to ensure that decision makers had the latest behavioural insights from the population into the measures undertaken in order to drive and shape their response. The United Nations ensured technical adherence of the health authorities to WHO recommendations on the response to COVID-19, early detection, surveillance, testing, tracing contacts, isolation, treatment and case management. The health systems were supported through the procurement and distribution to the relevant institutions of **11.5 million pieces of life-saving medical equipment, testing kits and necessary supplies** worth more than USD 21 million.

10,618,665 items of personal protective equipment

12,367 medical devices

899,099 pieces of lab equipment, tests and testing materials

The United Nations also supported the government through the procurement of COVID-19 vaccines and an assessment of and contribution to the **Vaccination plans against COVID-19** by making them more operational and in line with best practice on implementation and evaluation of progress. A comprehensive cold chain assessment was conducted to improve the cold chain in the country and ensure

its appropriateness for the storage of COVID-19 vaccines as well as other vaccines. Furthermore, the United Nations conducted **risk communication campaigns** through social media and other channels that reached more than two million people.



The United Nations supported all of the ministries of education in ensuring continuity of learning through **e-learning and blended learning** during the school closures, reaching at least 105,000 children. Six TV shows called 'Kids Scientists' were broadcast widely with a total reach of 700,000 viewers. These educational series were a combination of puppetry, animation and videos whereby children learned in an interactive and engaging way about viruses, diseases and hygiene and prevention from real experts, other children and through songs.

105,000 children were reached through e-learning and blended learning

185,000 children and 257,000 caregivers

benefitted from child protection programmes

During the year, about 185,000 children and 257,000 caregivers benefitted directly or indirectly from United Nations supported **child protection programmes**. Community based mental health and psychosocial support was enhanced through United Nations support, benefitting 14,000 children and 2,800 caregivers. The United Nations further strengthened the institutional capacities in the area of sexual and reproductive health and rights. One example is the development of clinical guidelines on the provision of quality maternal healthcare and enhancing youth-friendly approaches in the delivery of healthcare to young people.

204,395 people

benefitted from psychosocial support services



In the area of social protection, the United Nations supported the entity associations of social workers in conducting **COVID-19 impact assessments in the social protection sector**. The findings clearly indicate the need to invest in building shock-responsive social protection systems in order to ensure the continuity of services and benefits, which are even more important in crisis situations.

United Nations support for civil society organisations and local government resulted in the **introduction of four new short-term social services, especially for the most vulnerable**. At policy level, in partnership with the EU and the United Nations, the Social Inclusion Foundation facilitated the development of entity and district **social inclusion strategies**. The United Nations continued to support the adoption and amendment of cantonal and entity legislation and related strategies as well as strategic litigation cases related to the **implementation of Annex 7** of the Dayton Agreement.

In the area of drug use prevention, the United Nations strengthened the capacity of Bosnia and Herzegovina to address **substance use disorders** and through the 'Strong Families' programme scaled up drug prevention efforts by helping families prevent drug use, violence and other negative social consequences. The United Nations also supported the authorities in **reducing drug dependence**, ensuring uninterrupted treatment and opioid substitution therapy care for persons affected by drug use disorders.

During 2020 the United Nations also contributed to the development of the **Bosnia and Herzegovina Roma Action Plan 2021-2025** as well as the Bosnia and Herzegovina Programme for Monitoring the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) Concluding Observations, while also supporting **civil registration procedures**.



Our stories

[When I grow up I want to be a doctor](#)

A five-year journey brought Rania and her family to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Today, the family lives in the Borčić Temporary Reception Centre located near the border with Croatia.

[Beyond the grim situation that COVID-19 caused across the world the global academic community is coming together to bring answers and solutions to the world](#)

Dženan Kovačić is a rising star of the Bosnia and Herzegovina scientific community and one of the winners at the covIDEJA 2020 ideathon. His award winning idea relates to the Vault platform for vaccine development and therapeutics for intracellular pathogens such as SARS-CoV2 infections and bacteria such as the tubercle bacillus.

[Going for a vaccination with my cousin Emina](#)

"Don't worry, it doesn't hurt. It just stings a little. It's easier if you look the other way," says Emina to Irma as they fix each other's hair.

PILLAR 4

Empowerment of Women

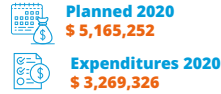
Alignment with SDGs:



Contributing UN Agencies:

UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR and UN Women (chair)

Budget:



Recognising the need to tackle the socioeconomic consequences of the COVID-19 crisis, the United Nations reprogrammed its efforts to support women's income and livelihoods by providing immediate food and hygiene security and livelihood support as well as by supporting female owned agribusinesses and small sized companies. The work of the United Nations has ensured that *more women will take part in decision making in the political fora and in the economy* (Outcome 12) and that *the prevention of and a timely response to gender-based violence along with comprehensive care and support will be provided to survivors* (Outcome 13). In addition, the institutional capacities of service providers were enhanced in terms of a *multisectoral response to cases of violence* (Outcome 13).



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Recognising the harmful impact that COVID-19 has had on **employment and income generation opportunities**, the UNCT specifically in 2020 allocated 28 per cent of jobs and 41 per cent of assistance to livelihoods for women. This meant that 1,843 women benefited from improved livelihoods and income, including 225 of those affected by the floods of 2014 and the current COVID-19 pandemic. Targeted support enabled immediate food and hygiene security and livelihood support for 300 families. Recognising the need to tackle the socioeconomic consequences of the crisis, the United Nations reprogrammed support in order to help the livelihood and business operations of 200 rural female owners of agribusinesses and 40 female owners of small sized companies.

1,843 women
benefited from improved livelihoods and income



The United Nations secured packages with basic protective equipment and provided one-time financial grants to cover the necessary expenses for ensuring continuity in the provision of specialised services during the COVID-19 crisis, and were able to respond to 888 SOS calls and admit 172 women and 34 children survivors of domestic violence during the last quarter of 2020 alone.



All safe houses improved
their physical infrastructure, equipment and access to this specialised service

Through the capacity building of 118 service providers and 66 mentoring sessions the United Nations increased the capacities of institutional service providers in 2020 in terms of a multisectoral response to cases of violence, in line with the Istanbul Convention.



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©UNFPA

In 2020, more than 160,000 women benefitted from **improved access to public services** in administration, health, sport and culture, energy, water supply and sewage. More than 4,000 women – including those who had lost their job and single parents – were provided with food and medical items during the lockdown through the COVID-19 response measures supported by the United Nations and delivered through civil society organisations.

Given the negative impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on gender equality, the United Nations team intensified its support for **leadership, voice and the empowerment of women**. More than 1,300 women engaged in a countrywide digital network (online resource library) that enabled the sharing of knowledge and experiences and motivated female leaders during the lockdown, while 50,000 women were reached through a public debate on violence against women in public life.

To ensure **gender sensitive public policy design processes**, the United Nations encouraged the engagement of women in consultations on important country strategic frameworks. One example is that women accounted for more than 50 per cent of participants who contributed to the formulation of and public consultations on the importance of climate actions strategies such as the Nationally Determined Contributions, the Road Map and Implementation Plan and Climate Change Adaptation and the Low Emission Strategy.

Women accounted for
**more than 50% of
 participants**

who contributed to the formulation of and
 public consultations on the importance of
 climate action strategies.

In order to ensure that a substantial number of refugees, persons granted subsidiary protection and asylum seekers were provided with quality sensitised services and support (sexual and other forms of gender-based violence survivors/at-risk groups), the United Nations improved the reception conditions by focusing on SGBV prevention and response interventions. During 2020, 48 reported survivors of SGBV incidents received psychosocial counselling,

one SGBV public campaign was organised, one sexual and other forms of gender-based violence prevention and response training session were held, 281 at-risk groups were trained on SGBV prevention and response and were referred and assisted to fully utilise the available services at the local level (health institutions, free legal aid and the centres for social welfare).



©Association 'Romanjijski skorup – kajmak'

Our stories

Agribusinesses run by women help villages survive

Through professional as well as private engagement Drena Đukić actively contributes to strengthening the position of women in rural areas, even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For those we work with, COVID-19 is a cumulative crisis; for them we have to be determined calm and quick

Jasna Zečević is the president of the Association 'Vive žene' in Tuzla. Through her work at the centre and the safe house she is engaged in helping female victims of domestic violence, which she continued to do during the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Modern Day Heroines: Celebrating female activists in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Nine young women, each in their own domain, are changing the world around them and building a society for a better future. These are their stories.

PARTNERSHIPS AND SDG FINANCING

SDG financing ecosystem in Bosnia and Herzegovina

In 2020, the United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina supported authorities in finalising a Sustainable Development Goals Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Developed over the last two years through the direct engagement of public and private sector stakeholders, this framework was adopted by the governments of Brčko District and the entities in 2020 in preparation for adoption by the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2021.

This framework offers a common countrywide vision for sustainable development in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The framework further provides the basis to expand discussions on financing the SDGs with the objective of increasing and diversifying sources of public and private investment aligned with the sustainable development goals, including through private sector investment.

Within this context, the United Nations has supported the authorities in the country in preparing a comprehensive SDG Financing Strategy for Bosnia and Herzegovina and in setting-up a platform for countrywide dialogue and partnerships for SDG implementation. The United Nations will assess the financing gaps in priority sectors (health, education and employment) and support the optimisation and rechanneling of public funds toward SDG priorities as well as identify new and innovative financing mechanism that could be applicable to the Bosnia and Herzegovina context (e.g., from the private sector, institutional investors and domestic and international financial institutions).



Examples of transformative partnerships

Contributing to peacebuilding and the strengthening of intercultural dialogue in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the region, the United Nations, under the auspices of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, has partnered with a network of civil society, **academia and media actors** to create spaces for intercultural dialogue and enable a countrywide peacebuilding process that promotes social cohesion, trust building and appreciation of diversity with a focus on youth, which is a driving force for change. The Dialogue Platform Declaration that was adopted in the first phase of the project continues to serve as the backbone of the initiative with its call for, *“all peoples and citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially the youth, to become active participants and engines of change and to work together with us in developing policies aimed at overcoming the key challenges faced by Bosnia and Herzegovina.”*

The United Nations partnered with EUFOR, the Embassy of the United States of America in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina to upgrade and improve the management of ammunition disposal and ammunition storage sites. As a result of this partnership, more than 5,500 tonnes of unsafe ammunition has been disposed of since 2015 contributing to a safer environment for the citizens of this country.

The United Nations facilitated a broad-based **partnership between the World Bank, the EU, the Government of Switzerland, the Government of the Czech Republic, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Swiss State Secretariat for Economy**, which resulted in the development of a Joint vision for advancing the Water Supply and Wastewater Management Services Reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2021–2028. This Framework informs the interventions of all these partners and as such constitutes a large consolidated financial portfolio of donor resources and IFIs that can support policies and investment aimed at reforming the water sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Partnership with the private sector: The United Nations supported the SDG Business Week 2020 with focus on digital solutions and circular business models. **More than 100 private sector leaders from five countries** shared their experiences on integrating the SDGs into their business models. The highlight of the SDG Business Week 2020 was the awards ceremony for the 2020 SDG Business Pioneers.

The **United Nations supported eight safe houses through strategic private sector partnerships** resulting in 384 survivors and their children being provided with counselling, food and psychosocial support.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Partnerships with Global Funds: The United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina has worked closely with non-resident entities and global financing instruments in order to secure partnerships that advance global agendas. In 2020, the United Nations Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund and the United Nations COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund provided funds to improve the quality of education, including interventions to address key bottlenecks in the education of girls, and supported institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina in establishing an ecosystem for financing the SDGs

Partnership with the European Union: Through sector level gender mainstreaming the United Nations has supported government efforts and provided technical guidance on gender analysis of the sector planning documents, policies and programmes in the three priority IPA sectors: 1) agriculture and

rural development, 2) democracy and the rule of law and 3) competitiveness and innovation. This support was provided in the form of three sector based gender mainstreaming analyses validated by 36 key stakeholders, a manual on integrating gender equality into the IPA programming process in the three priority sectors and the provision of training on gender mainstreaming in the respective sectors at all levels of government.

The United Nations also mobilised the diplomatic community as well as other relevant national and international stakeholders to raise awareness on gender-based violence. The United Nations completed a gender analyses of three budget rebalances conducted by the two entity governments and in Canton Sarajevo. The findings of the analyses are among the key issues being raised by MPs in discussions regarding the budget for 2021.



UNITED NATIONS COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

Building upon lessons learnt and best practices and taking advantage of the opportunities provided by the United Nations reforms, the United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina has adopted measures geared toward further strengthening coherence, effectiveness and efficiency across the United Nations development system, reducing transaction costs for the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and improving coordination of international support to the country.

In 2020, the United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina completed the design of the next **United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (CF)** for Bosnia and Herzegovina covering the period 2021–2025. This was done in cooperation with the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, civil society, communities, the private sector, academia and international partners.

Drawing on the extensive consultations on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2019 Bosnia and Herzegovina Voluntary Review of progress toward SDG achievement, this framework provides the United Nations system in Bosnia and Herzegovina with a single coherent framework for policy dialogue and advocacy and a platform for the coordination and delivery of results in support of sustainable economic growth and inclusive prosperity.

In February 2020, to support the UNSDCF, the United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina finalised a **Common Country Assessment** drawing on available and/or ongoing thematic assessments across the United Nations with strong focus on data and engagement with the population. This assessment will be updated on a regular basis in order to ensure that the priorities identified by the CF represent a nexus of change and partnership that when combined offer

an effective pathway for Bosnia and Herzegovina - United Nations system cooperation to make tangible and measurable contributions toward the Sustainable Development Goals. Based on its comparative advantages, under the UNSDCF, the United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina will contribute policy advice in accordance with international norms, standards and best practice and work to develop new capacities at all levels of government in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the implementation and monitoring of strategies, policies and plans to meet targets localised in the emerging SDG Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The CF will be operationalized through a **biennial United Nations wide Joint Work Plan** that responds to all five strategic outcomes identified in the CF. The coherence of the planning process has provided an opportunity to rethink the UNCT approach to the underlying and protracted development challenges

in Bosnia and Herzegovina: increased focus on the normative standards in the CF and reinforced new focus areas such as sustainable economic growth and social cohesion. This has gone hand in hand with a reconfiguration of the UNCT to ensure that United Nations capacities and mandates are available to deliver on the CF. Within this context the United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been extended to include the capacities of United Nations entities such as OHCHR, DPPA, UNECE and UNDRR.

Alongside the preparation of the CF, the United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina supported the immediate response to COVID-19 by providing coordination support, knowledge, expertise and equipment to the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the international community. The RC chaired a **monthly International Coordination Meeting on COVID-19** under the technical leadership of WHO, which is the

primary forum for the sharing of epidemiological information with the IC. A **Crisis Management Team (CMT)** chaired by the RC was established under the technical leadership of the head of WHO. The CMT met regularly to monitor United Nations personnel protocols and to ensure effective coordination of duty of care across the UNCT. In addition, weekly and daily reporting on epidemiological trends in Bosnia and Herzegovina was established, with **weekly situation reports** shared with international partners and government.

A COVID19 Socioeconomic Task Force was established with UN agencies and IFIs to enable technical coordination of expertise and knowledge across the United Nations family and partners. Co-Chaired by UNDP and UNICEF, this task force enabled the coordination of more than **30 assessments, including in-person surveys, intersectoral assessments, analyses and policy briefs**, in order to assess the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the most affected groups. These were presented to partners and the public through online events and policy briefs facilitated by the RCO in support of the UNCT. A COVID-19 information management platform, **COVID-19 Activities Tracking Tool (CATT)**, was created and populated with data on needs, procurement and the financial support provided to the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This enabled the United Nations to communicate to the authorities, donors and citizens what the United Nations system was doing to support the country's COVID-19 response efforts and increased transparency and accountability in the work of the United Nations at the country level.



The UNCT, under the leadership of WHO, UNICEF, the RC and other members of the UNCT, played a strong role in COVID-19 risk communication on social media, with particular emphasis on promoting preventive measures (masks, physical distancing, avoiding crowds and hand hygiene). Of note is the **#ShowYourCare/WearAMask social media challenge** that UNCT initiated ahead of the global/WHO announcement, which achieved great outreach and public participation. The joint statement to the public and organisers on maintaining vigilance ahead of the local elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina was also shared widely.

The UN75 campaign was successfully rolled out with focus on **12 well-known champions from different spheres** of work who spoke about the priorities, the sharing of the global survey in the local language (over 1,400 responses/representative sample), uReport use, a **TV special with 6 chosen Bosnian and Herzegovinian experts** on leveraging C19 recovery for recovering better and the marking of the United Nations Day in Bosnia and Herzegovina through (i) a live-streamed event giving space to young Bosnian and Herzegovinian trailblazers for SDGs and UN75 priorities, (ii) Sarajevo, Banja Luka and Mostar joining the 'Europe turns UN blue' initiative and (iii) RC OpEd on **'The Future We Want and Need'**.

The **20th Anniversary of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security** was marked through a joint OpEd on empowering women's voices in the political arena, a dedicated event and advocacy messaging. RCO and UN Women are exploring the possibility to expand the OpEd into an actionable strategy with DPPA.

EVALUATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

In 2019, an independent evaluation team developed the Final Evaluation of the 2015–2020 UNDAF for Bosnia and Herzegovina. Overall, the UNDAF 2015–2020 evaluation was positive, and the United Nations programmatic interventions were appreciated for being responsive to the needs and priorities of the country and its citizens whilst progress toward the set targets was assessed as satisfactory. According to the Final Evaluation, UNDAF implementation brought concrete visible results that contributed to progress in all outcome areas and the UNCT was deemed a responsive adaptive fair and impartial partner to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Domestic stakeholders expressed a sense of ownership over the achieved results and expressed their satisfaction with the extent of their involvement in UNDAF implementation. Maintaining strong cooperation with the authorities at different levels of governance in Bosnia and Herzegovina and other partners and donors contributed to good results and proved to be an excellent operational model for Bosnia and Herzegovina. The long-term presence of the United Nations in the country, its technical capacities, focus on normative standards and accountability in terms of results were considered critical factors for the successful implementation of UNDAF. The United Nations strengthened inter-agency cooperation and coordination, which proved beneficial for effective UNDAF implementation.

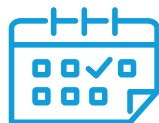
Opportunities for improvement were identified in the functioning of the UNDAF Joint Steering Committee and UNDAF Results Groups. In response to these recommendations, which called for further cohesion and efficiency as well as a reduction in transaction costs for the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina,

the 2021–2025 CF provides stronger focus on its future engagement in Bosnia and Herzegovina and a reduction in the number of strategic outcomes from 13 (2015–2020 UNDAF) down to 5 (2021–2025 United Nations Cooperation Framework). In addition, a single Results Group in the form of the Programme Management Team (PMT) was established in order to consolidate and maximise the available UNCT strategic, programmatic and analytical capacities across the CF. A new Joint Steering Committee was conceptualised for implementation of the 2021–2025 CF, plugging into a new institutional mechanism, the SDGs Council, for oversight and coordination of SDG implementation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The evaluators recommended continuous and intensified normative work of the United Nations, which was further embedded, especially in the area of human rights, in the next United Nations Cooperation Framework. The United Nations strengthened support around data, while youth related and migration related issues were also recommended. The UNDAF Final Evaluation stressed that efforts are needed to further mainstream gender equality across all United Nations work in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The UNCT has invested effort into the preparation and planning of the next programmatic cycle, which in some of these areas is now seen as a good example globally. The CCA includes a gendered and youth situational analysis and the CF has a strong gender dimension and makes a commitment to facilitate the involvement of civil society and 'leave no one behind' groups in the decision-making process, thus working to secure more equitable transparent and responsible institutions.

FINANCE AND RESOURCE MOBILISATION

2015–2020 planned:
USD 375.96 million



2015–2020 delivered:
USD 442.27 million

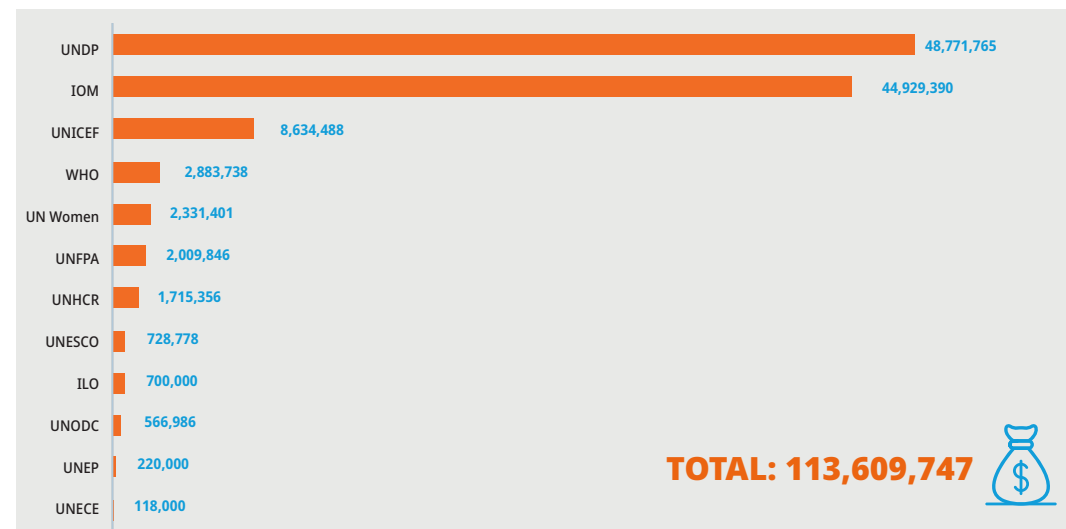
At the time the UNDAF agreement, full implementation foresaw an estimated total required budget of USD 264.59 million to cover the initial period 2015–2019. This included an indicative USD 54.87 million from regular or core resources and a projected USD 78.53 million from other or non-core resources. The total estimated funding gap was USD 131.19 million, which was expected to be mobilised during UNDAF implementation. Planned 2019/2020 delivery as

described in the 2019–2020 Joint Work Plans, which also included a one-year UNDAF extension (to 2020), was USD 125.3 million, which brought the total UNDAF six year value to USD 375.96 million.

As of the end of 2020, after six years of implementation, the collective UNCT delivery was USD 442.27 million or 118 per cent of the indicative six year UNDAF budget.

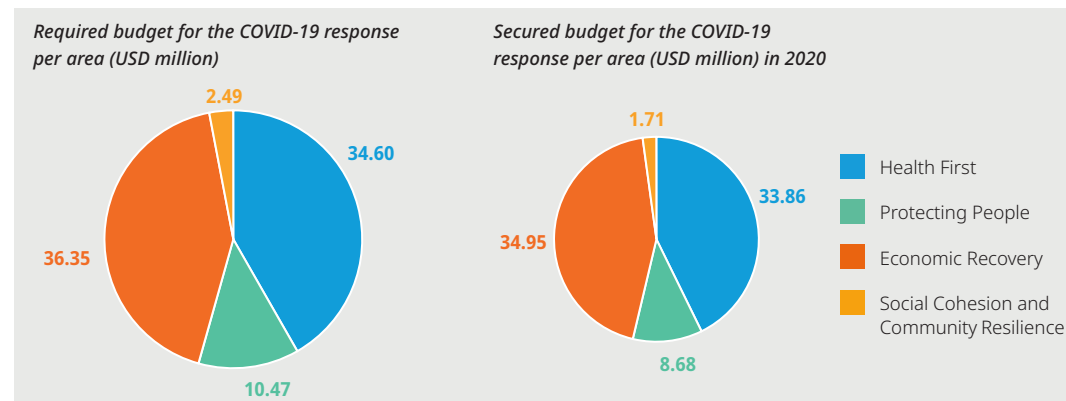
	2015–2016	2017–2018	2019–2020	2015–2020
PILLAR 1 - Rule of Law and Human Security	61,933,368	29,183,740	109,393,317	200,510,425
PILLAR 2 - Sustainable and Equitable Development and Employment	46,272,388	56,763,101	55,118,748	158,154,237
PILLAR 3 - Social Inclusion: Education, social protection, child protection and health	30,492,138	16,630,993	20,655,481	67,778,614
PILLAR 4 - Empowerment of Women	6,069,757	3,314,639	6,441,575	15,825,971
TOTAL:	144,767,652	105,892,474	191,609,122	442,269,248

United Nations agencies delivery (USD) 2020:

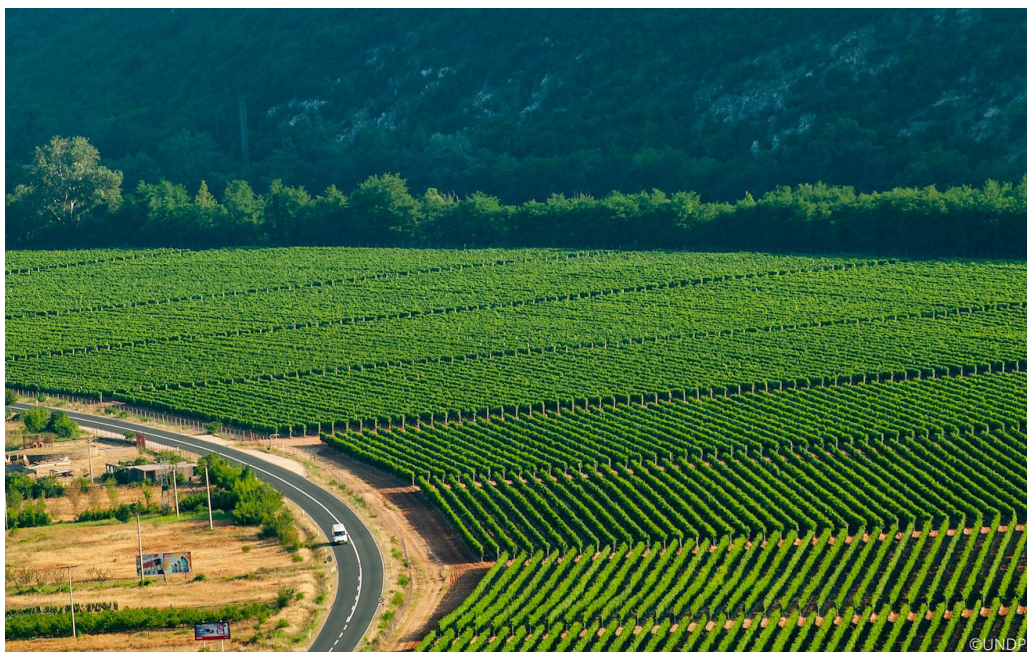


COVID-19 Response

In June 2020, under the overall leadership of the RC and with the technical leadership of the UNDP RR, the UNCT prepared the COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Offer for Bosnia and Herzegovina. The offer presented ongoing and planned support measures in four priority areas for a period of 12 to 18 months and had an estimated budget of USD 83.93 million of which USD 79.21 million was secured in 2020.



UNITED NATIONS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA IN 2021



In 2021, one of the key objectives of the UNCT will be the rolling out of the 2021–2025 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNSDCF). The UNSDCF was formally endorsed by the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina in December of 2020, after a year-long consultation process with the relevant authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, international partners, academia, NGOs and the private sector. It aligns with the EU accession priorities and the Reform Agenda for Bosnia and Herzegovina and focuses on four priority areas: i) Sustainable resilient and inclusive growth, ii) quality, accessible and inclusive education, health and social protection; iii) people centred governance and rule of law and iv) citizen and community engagement for social cohesion.

The UNCT has already finalised the process of the preparation of the initial biennial Joint United Nations Work Plan (JWP), operationalizing the UNSDCF implementation for the period 2021–2022.

The 2021–2022 JWP funding framework is set at USD 172 million, which is approximately half of the

indicative Funding Framework for the entire 2021–2025 Framework set at USD 336 million.

In parallel, the UNCT has initiated the process of establishing the next Joint Steering Committee (JSC) for the 2021–2025 CF, taking into consideration the lessons learnt from the previous cycle and the new coordination mechanism available in the country.

Within this context, the JSC will include the participation of the newly formed SDG Council in Bosnia and Herzegovina that is responsible for the strategic oversight and coordination of the implementation of the recently adopted SDG Framework in the country. This will provide a direct link between the CF and the SDG Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina and align the CF implementation with the SDG targets in the country.

The focus of the UNCT will also be on expanding the SDG financing sources by initiating implementation of the Joint United Nations Programme on SDG Financing with the ultimate objective of preparing the SDG Financing Roadmap/Strategy in support of the implementation of the SDG Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Sustainable resilient and inclusive growth



Outcome 1.

By 2025, people benefit from resilient inclusive and sustainable growth ensured by the convergence of economic development and the management of environmental and cultural resources.

Quality, accessible and inclusive education, health and social protection



Outcome 2.

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

Outcome 3.

By 2025, people have access to better quality and inclusive health and social protection systems.

People centred governance and rule of law



Outcome 4.

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

Citizen and community engagement for social cohesion



Outcome 5.

By 2025, there is stronger mutual understanding, respect and trust among individuals and communities.

KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

In 2020, the UN partnered with a broad range of government institutions, including ministries, agencies and institutes, at various levels and across multiple sectors. The United Nations also partnered with many civil society organisations, research institutes, media outlets and private companies.

Agency for Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Agency for Labour and Employment
 Agency for the Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight against Corruption
 Association 'A.S.U.S'
 Association 'Igra 27'
 Association 'Lan'
 Association 'Zemlja djece u Bosni i Hercegovini'
 Association for Art and Visual Communication Skills 'PIXEL'
 Basque Government
 BIT Alliance
 Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Federal Office of Statistics for the Entity of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Canton Sarajevo Institute for Women's Health and Maternity
 Cantonal ministries of education
 Cantons in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Centre for Education of Judges and Prosecutors of Republika Srpska
 Centre for Education of Judges and Prosecutors of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Centre for Research on War of Republika Srpska
 Chamber of Commerce of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Charles University Prague
 Civil Service Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Council for Children of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Council of Europe
 Council of Europe Development Bank
 Danish Refugee Council
 Department for Displaced Persons and Refugees, Brčko District
 Development and Investment Bank of Republika Srpska
 Development Bank of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Directorate for Economic Planning of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Directorate for European Integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Entity Associations of Municipalities and Cities
 Environmental and Energy Efficiency Fund of Republika Srpska

Environmental Fund of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Free Legal Aid centres
 Gender Centre of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Gender Centre of the Republic of Srpska
 Global Environment Facility (GEF)
 Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM)
 Government of Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Green Climate Fund (GCF)
 High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Indirect Taxation Authority of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Institute for Development Planning of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Institute for Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage of Republika Srpska
 Republika Srpska Institute of Statistics
 Institute of Public Health Una Sana Canton/Canton Sarajevo
 IOM Development Fund
 IPSIA
 Italian Development Cooperation
 Joint Committee on Human Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Labour and Social Policy USC
 Local governments
 Ministry for European Integration and International Cooperation of Republika Srpska
 Ministry for Refugees and Displaced Persons of Republika Srpska
 Ministry for Refugees and Displaced Persons of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Ministry of Administration and Local Self-Governance of Republika Srpska
 Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of Republika Srpska
 Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Ministry of Culture and Sports of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Ministry of Economy and Entrepreneurship of Republika Srpska
 Ministry of Education and Culture of Republika Srpska

Ministry of Education and Science of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Ministry of Energy, Industry and Mining of Republika Srpska
 Ministry of Entrepreneurship Development and Crafts of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Ministry of Finance of Republika Srpska
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of Republika Srpska
 Ministry of Health of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Ministry of Interior of Republika Srpska
 Ministry of Interior of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Ministry of Justice of Republika Srpska
 Ministry of Justice of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Ministry of Labour, War Veterans and Disabled Persons' Protection of Republika Srpska
 Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Ministry of Spatial Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology of Republika Srpska
 Ministry of Tourism and Environment of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Ministry of Transport and Communications of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office)
 National Parks and Nature Parks in Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Office for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
 Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
 Pomozi.ba
 Posao.ba
 Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Public Administration Reform Coordination Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Qatar Charity
 Radio Television Una Sana Canton
 Republic Pedagogical Institute of Republika Srpska
 Secretariat for Displaced Persons and Migrations of Republika Srpska
 Service for Foreigners' Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 The Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 The Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 The Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR)

The European Union (EU Delegation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, EU Foreign Policy Instrument – Instrument Contributing to Stability and Peace)
 The European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL)
 The Government of Austria
 The Government of Denmark
 The Government of France
 The Government of Germany
 The Government of Slovakia
 The Government of Sweden
 The Government of Switzerland
 The Government of the Kingdom of Norway
 The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
 The Government of the United Kingdom
 The Government of the United States of America
 The Institution of Human Rights Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)
 The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
 The Ministry of Administration and Local Self-Government of Republika Srpska
 The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
 The prosecutor's offices of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro
 The Red Cross
 The United States Bureau of Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism
 The United States Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
 The World Bank
 The World Customs Organization (WCO)
 United Nations Peace Building Fund
 United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
 University College London
 University Dzemal Bijedic of Mostar
 University of Banja Luka
 University of East Sarajevo
 University of Mostar
 University of Sarajevo
 University of Zenica
 Violeta d.o.o
 War Childhood Museum
 War Crimes and Missing Persons
 Western Balkans SALW Control Road Map Multi Partner Trust Fund

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