

Ending Violence against Women



Why do we do what we do?

Every second woman in Bosnia and Herzegovina experienced some form of violence since the age of 15 which exceeds the worldwide average of one in three women. Safe houses across the country are struggling to provide adequate protection to survivors of violence due to lack of stable financial support, and rape crisis centers for supporting survivors of sexual assault have yet to be established. Legal framework regulating sexual violence and sexual harassment crimes, as well as femicide, is still not fully in line with international standards and only 3% of women reported sexual harassment cases directly to police.

Highlighted fact: Many cases of violence remain unreported due to stigma or the fact that women do not recognize that they are experiencing violence.



How we work?

UN Women has played a central role in addressing violence against women (VAW) in BiH since its establishment and continues to enhance the quality of **legislation, protection, prosecution** and **prevention** efforts based on the Istanbul Convention standards. The government and CSOs have acknowledged the important role that UN Women has played in building their capacities, supporting their work, and ensuring productive communication between the two sectors. At the legislation level, the focus is on supporting the governments to harmonize legal, policy and budget framework with international standards ensuring quality service provision to survivors of VAW. To strengthen protection systems, UN Women supports the work on coordinated and multisectoral response to cases of violence in local communities, and contributes to the standardization of the quality of response by first responders, ensuring that quality assurance and monitoring mechanisms are introduced and applied. In preventing VAW, UN Women focuses on community-based engagement of institutional, CSO and individual actors (including men and boys, religious leaders, media, business community, schools, artists and public figures) in support of zero tolerance to violence.

UN Women supports Bosnia and Herzegovina to achieve gender equality, and works with governments and civil society organizations to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement international gender equality commitments.



2020 - 2023:

appx. 3,700,000 USD



Key partners

- ▶ Foundation Lara, Bijeljina
- ▶ Budućnost, Modriča
- ▶ Bolja Budućnost, Tuzla
- ▶ Foundation for Local Democracy, Sarajevo
- ▶ Vive Žene, Tuzla
- ▶ United Women, Banja Luka
- ▶ Institute for Population and Development
- ▶ Medica Zenica
- ▶ Gender Center of Federation BiH
- ▶ Gender Center of Republika Srpska



Donors:



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Our results

From 2020 to 2023 UN Women has been working on and supporting various initiatives under the EVAW portfolio:

- Contributed to the establishment of **multisectoral teams** across BiH and development of local protocols on coordinated response in domestic violence (DV) cases.
- Supported FBiH Ministry of Interior to endorse a new **standardized approach** to the police response to VAW and DV.
- Supported CSOs to advocate for enhancement of the **legislative framework** for protection from sexual violence and sexual harassment in both entities and Brčko District.
- Supported advocacy activities for the establishment of a legal and institutional framework for **rape crisis centers** and assisted in defining the minimum standards for their work.
- Helped safe houses to increase their capacities for working with **survivors of sexual violence**.
- Assisted CSOs in various **prevention activities** focused on work with youth, media, religious leaders, educational institutions.
- Supported City of Banja Luka to become the first city in BiH and region implementing a comprehensive program based on the global **UN Women Safe Cities/Safe Public Spaces** methodology.

And many more...



Next steps

UN Women will continue to support strengthening of the multisectoral bodies, ensuring quality response by police, judiciary, centres for social work, health institutions, schools and other relevant stakeholders. We will assist in advocating legal framework changes regulating sexual violence and harassment, and establishment of high-quality services for sexual violence survivors. Femicide prevention and community engagement initiatives to raise awareness about GBV will be in our focus. UN Women will still perform its role in supporting the work of government institutions such as gender centers and CSOs, and building capacities of the media, universities and wider community to recognize and address GBV in an effective way.



Achievements in numbers

- ▶ At least **38** multisectoral teams established. **10** cantonal coordination bodies established at the cantonal level.
- ▶ At least **38** protocols on local response in DV cases developed.
- ▶ **110** police officers enhanced capacities for response to DV.
- ▶ **6** policy documents for the revision of criminal laws regulating sexual violence and harassment created. **4** amendments related to sexual harassment in Republika Srpska adopted.
- ▶ Media reporting about GBV has increased by more than **142%**.
- ▶ **6** local communities apply “Communities that Care” approach involving youth, men and boys, community and non-traditional leaders in preventive activities.
- ▶ More than **2,000** students have been exposed to comprehensive VAW educational programs.
- ▶ More than **200** religious leaders educated and empowered to recognize violence in local communities.

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