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| **United Nations Joint Project “Seeking Care, Support and Justice for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina”** |
| **Overview**This UN joint project is **championed by Mme Zainab Hawa Bangura, the UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict**, and aims to **respond to the needs and provide redress to survivors of conflict-related sexual violence** (CRSV) from the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the early 90s as well as their families. The joint project combinesthe **expertise** and **in-country experience** of four UN and associate agencies: **IOM, UNDP, UNFPA** and **UN Women**.The UN focus will consist of three main components: * + **Data collection, research and mapping of needs and capacities**,
	+ **Service provision enhanced to be CRSV-sensitive**,and
	+ **Stigma reduction through advocacy and sensitisation**.

**Background** 20 years after the 1992-95 war, which was marked by serious violations of International Humanitarian Law, including widespread rape and sexual violence, many victims of conflict-related sexual violence have not been redressed to this day and still suffer dramatic consequences on their daily lives. **“We are still alive. We have been harmed but we are brave and strong”**[[1]](#footnote-1)The critical need for providing assistance and services to survivors of CRSV and for a comprehensive approach to tackling CRSV is greater than ever. Although several initiatives have focused on CRSV prevention through capacity building of armed forces and peacekeepers, few have targeted CRSV survivors as primary beneficiaries or provided services to address their needs. Indeed, societal recognition of the harms suffered by CRSV survivors, both women and men, during the war is lacking and survivors suffer from widespread stigma. Moreover, it is estimated that survivors need enhanced access to improvedservices, such as free legal advice and access to affordable and appropriate psycho-social and health care services, including mental, sexual and reproductive health services. The project aims to contribute to the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions 1325, 1612, 1674, 1820, 1888 and 1960 as well as tothe fulfilment of BiH’s obligations under the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), amongst others. **Project Description*****Information Gathering Component***The first phase of the project has been dedicated to identifying gaps in the existing care, support, and justice systems, through **comprehensive data collection and analysis** of the **gaps between the needs of survivors of CRSV** and their families and the **availability of services,** including: * + analysing the needs of CRSV survivors who actively seek services,
	+ assessing the capacity of institutions and services and legislative gaps regarding service provision,
	+ assessing available data and methodologies on survivors to lay the groundwork for a comprehensive reparations package,
	+ identifying barriers that prevent survivors from fully (re)integrating intosocio-economic aspects of their communities,
	+ mapping the existing CSOs initiatives and economic schemes for survivors.
	+ initiating a masculinity study on community values regarding gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence,
	+ analysing stigma dynamics through a public perception survey, and

***Service Provision Strengthening and Advocacy Component***The results from the information gathering component will inform the next stages of the project, with the aim of addressing the identified gaps and creating an effective, comprehensive, and standardised approach for dealing with the needs of survivors of CRSV: * Enhanced **accessibility for survivors to social and criminal justice, CRSV-sensitive services, rights and reparations**, and eliminated barriers that prevent survivors from understanding and exercising their rights by:
	+ increasing the CRSV responsiveness of security and judicial institutions, free legal aid and victim-witness support,
	+ standardising service delivery and strengthening referral mechanisms,
	+ supporting the economic empowerment of CRSV survivors, and
	+ enhancing capacity and representation of CSOs working with survivors,
	+ facilitating the development of a reparations package.
* **Outreach and advocacy** to **combat stigma,** ensure **equality of citizens** and **social reintegration** by:
	+ advocating and raising awareness to address social stigma against CRSV survivors, and
	+ building the capacity of media representatives on CRSV reporting standards.
 |  ***Estimated Budget****Total: 4,144,441 USD* |
|  ***Estimated Duration****3 years (2014 – 2017)****Participating Agencies****International Organization for Migration (IOM)**UN Development Programme (UNDP)**UN Population Fund (UNFPA)**UN Women****Partners****The project will benefit from the previously established state, entity and local governmental partnerships, including gender institutions, ministries of health, justice, social inclusion and human rights. In addition, the project will have close partnerships with civil society organisations to build their capacity and benefit from their networks and expertise in working with CRSV survivors.*  ***Contacts******Ms. Amela Cosovic-Medic****Joint Programme Manager (UNDP Lead Agency) and UNDP Sector Leader**amela.cosovic-medic@undp.org****Ms. Doina Bologa****UNFPA Representative to BiH**bologa@unfpa.org****Ms. Anne-Marie Esper Larsen****UN Women Representative to BiH* *anne-marie.esper-larsen@unwomen.org****Mr. Gianluca Rocco****IOM**Chief of Mission in BiH**grocco@iom.int****Specific Features of the Project:******A Victim-Centred Approach****This project puts survivors, their needs, choices and rights at the centre of the action, with feedback mechanisms in place to ensure their participation and a duly implemented “do no harm” principle.* ***A Comprehensive Strategy*** *The strategy combines:** *Research and assessments*
* *Institutional and civil society partnerships*
* *Operationalised and standardised best practices*
* *Outreach*
* *Comprehensive victim-centred approach*

***A Joint Approach*** *Combined expertise, mandates and experience of four UN and associate agencies:** *IOM: reparations*
* *UNDP: justice sector*
* *UNFPA: psychosocial and health services*
* *UN Women: service delivery for women empowerment*

***SRSG on Sexual Violence in Conflict as Champion****This joint UN project is a concrete response to the reports and efforts of Mme Zainab Hawa Bangura on the need to fulfil the rights of CRSV survivors in BiH.* |

1. “We are still alive”, Research on the Long-Term Consequences of War Rape and Coping Strategies of Survivors in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Medica Zenica and Medica Mondiale, June 2014. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)