



WOMEN AND MEN IN SERBIA: AT A GLANCE

KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN SERBIA

According to the Global Gender Gap Report 2022, Serbia came in 23rd out of 146 countries with best ranking in the domain of political power and participation of women in the Government and Parliament, as well as in education, while the field of women in the economy is one of the lowest ranked. This does not come as surprise following a survey on the effects of glass ceiling on women in business in Serbia, conducted in February 2022 by tobacco company Philip Morris and the Coordination Body for Gender Equality, that found that 56 per cent of women have lower income compared to their male colleagues. In addition, 78 per cent of participants claimed that women and men are not treated equally in the workplace.

Another global survey showed that Serbia is one of seven countries in Europe that have established system for monitoring investments in gender equality. The survey is based on unified methodology on GRB under the SDG 5c1 linking the policy and legal requirements for gender equality with resource allocations for their implementation.

Violence against women and girls remained one of the most challenging issues in regard to gender equality with 20 femicides registered in the country in the first seven months of 2022. State authorities (including Justice Minister Maja

Popovic, President of the Coordination Body for Gender Equality Zorana Mihajlovic and Commissioner for Equality Brankica Jankovic) are calling for changes to the Law on Criminal Sanctions. They insist on the importance of prescribing the obligation of the competent authorities to, ex officio in cases of gender-based and domestic violence, inform the victim of the perpetrator's release from prison, as well as on better coordination and work of the competent institutions. On the other hand, Serbia has got the first national survey on prevalence of violence against women and girls in public spaces and the findings show some alarming trends of insecurity: as many as 45 per cent of women are afraid of rape; as many as 9.2 per cent of women from the sample experienced rape or attempted rape; and 76.7 per cent of women say that they are responsible for their own safety.

The public was awash again in scandal related to induced abortion after Milica Filipovic from Sabac spoke publicly about the inhuman treatment she had been subjected to during her induced abortion in the Narodni Front Ob-Gyn Clinic in Belgrade. The incident initiated not only a heated debate in Serbia but had reverberations throughout the country where similar incidents surfaced.





COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Within the project „Safeguarding Women and Girls in Serbia“, funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), UN Women published the results of the National survey on violence against women and girls in public spaces, first of its kind in Serbia. The survey was conducted by a renowned women’s rights CSO FemPlatz during the first half of the 2022 in all parts of Serbia, covering all regions and demographics on a sample of 1,212 women and girls older than 15 years. Findings of the survey showed some alarming trends of insecurity:

- as many as 45% of women are afraid of rape
- as many as 9.2% of women from the sample experienced rape or attempted rape
- 76.7% of women say that they are responsible for their own safety, they do not trust and do not rely on others
- a third of women, when they experienced some form of violence in a public space, were taken aback and did nothing (called the police, shouted, ran away)
- in order to ensure personal safety, women rely on their own strategies - they go out less often, spend more time at home, etc.
- in 69.9% of cases when women experienced some form of violence in public space, other persons were present but did not react.

In order to present this pioneering data to a broader public, UN Women and FemPlatz held a conference in June gathering over

70 participants, representatives of relevant ministries and public institutions, CSOs, embassies, and international organizations as well as the media. The media coverage of the conference was a record high reflecting the importance of the topic, with 7 major national media being present at the event and an estimated 16.000.000 people reached by 47 media releases.

Additionally, UN Women will partner with five local self-government units and women CSOs in order to support and enable them to carry out a critical evaluation of their urban environments from the perspective of safety of women and girls, by applying globally acclaimed Women’s Safety Audit tool (WSAT), which was adapted to fit particular Serbian context. For this purpose, UN Women partnered with the Society of Women Architects and developed a Manual for the application of WSAT at the local level, including a detailed checklist and recommendations needed for the successful planning of women safety walks. Five chosen municipalities will then be trained and guided through the whole process aimed at identifying major risks to safety of local women and girls in public spaces and corresponding corrective measures.

Finally, in order to increase collaborative mobilization of resources, foster sharing and exchange of information as well as improve coordination among shelters, UN Women established the Community of Practice (CoP) of professionals working in currently 10 operating shelters for victims of gender-based violence. The first two-day meeting of CoP, which was also the first official in-person meeting of professionals in the last three years, took place in April, in Vršac.

Under the project ‘Improved Safety of Women in Serbia’, funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UN Women continued its support in building Serbian society free from gender-based discrimination and violence.

Agreement on donation of Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) to the Ministry of Justice in Montenegro was signed and the entire equipment was successfully transferred to Montenegro. EMS enables electronic surveillance of restraining orders in domestic violence cases. Should the perpetrator, even if accidentally, approach the victim or come close to/enter one of the predefined safe zones, both the monitoring center and the victim are notified, and the institutions react depending on the given situation. Therefore, victim’s safety is at the center of the EMS and it is thus significantly improved.

Moreover, five consultants have been engaged to support the Ministry in the implementation of the EMS, namely with the Directorate of Probation and the Directorate for the Information System of the Judiciary and Data Security.

Furthermore, a Brief Note for police officers on communication with media in cases of VAWG has been developed. Namely, the adequate and stereotype-free media reporting is closely connected to statements issued by the police officers. To strengthen the capacities of police directorates in issuing public statements, the Brief Note will be delivered to the representatives of the Montenegrin police at the training for public institutions, in November 2022.

The project continues with building capacities of young leaders of change, members of the coalition “Youth Against Violence”. Hence,

a training was organized in April, aimed at a deeper understanding of gender discrimination and different types of gender-based violence. Particular focus was put on the forms of violence occurring in romantic relationships, including information on what the signs of toxic patterns of behavior are and how to avoid them. This new knowledge will enable participants to become agents of change and pass it on to their friends, family, and society. Finally, an opportunity for internship was open for interested leaders of change in five women CSOs, partners within the project. Internships will start as of September. In this way, the capacity of both youth and women CSOs continues to be strengthened, as well as their mutual ties, that can lead to great results in improving the safety of women in Serbia.

Within Phase II of the Regional Programme on Ending Violence against Women in the Western Balkans and Turkey “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds”, an analysis of the current situation in terms of structural and functional standards within existing and operating shelters in the Republic of Serbia, i.e. 13 shelters for women victims of violence and 1 shelter for victims of human trafficking, is being finalized by NGO Atina. Preliminary results, based on interviews with 38 professionals engaged within these shelters, show that a total of 190 beds are available, and 80 professionals are employed to provide the service. Only 5 shelters have a working license (35.7%), 2 are in the process of renewing their license (14.3%), while 7 safe houses have submitted a request for issuing a license (50%). The largest number (71.5%) recognizes the lack of human resources as a challenge in licensing. While more than half of the safe houses



have developed economic empowerment programmes for female beneficiaries, 82.6% of them do not have a protocol and procedure for taking care of the cases of reported sexual violence. Three key challenges stressed by interviewed professionals are personnel challenges (number of employees, conditions and circumstances of the employment regulations); regulation of service provision (relationship with other service providers, diversity in service budgeting and service implementation); and licensing (attitude towards licensing, reasons for the impossibility of licensing, etc). The analysis is to be followed by a proposal of new quality standards.

SOS Network of Vojvodina continued strengthening capacities of CSO professionals to provide SOS services through Sound of Soul – SOS mobile app. In total, 515 women have reported violence to 13 partner's organizations in the period March – June 2022 through 705 calls in total, with 198 of them coming through the mobile app. In June 2022, there have been in total 262 applications in active usage. In addition, representatives from 9 women CSOs gained knowledge, information and developed special skills needed to work with women with disabilities victims of violence, through a training held by professionals from EOut of Circle Vojvodina. Special attention was paid to improving the skills in instructing women with disabilities how to use digital communication channels to access SOS services. Moreover, having in mind that the fifth periodic report of Serbia is due in March of 2023, the work on the preparation of an independent report for the CEDAW Committee continued through a series of consultative meetings with engaged experts on gender equality and GBV. Independen-

dent draft report is to be finalized by the end of October 2022.

Programme partner Association Fenomena, in partnership with the Law Faculty of University of Kragujevac, has conducted research on the implementation of the Law on free legal aid (LFLA), producing 18 recommendations for improving the existing legislation and its implementation in relation to Free Legal Aid for victims of gender-based violence. The recommendations are based on GREVIO's recommendations and inputs received and analyzed during the research. This includes the perspective of including victims of all forms of violence according to the Istanbul Convention, not only the domestic violence. In addition, 48 lawyers from Belgrade, Kragujevac, Kraljevo, Krusevac, Novi Pazar and Tutin strengthened their capacities for improved service provision of free legal aid to VAWG survivors through participating in a two-day training, with self-perceived increase in their knowledge and understanding of concepts related to all forms of gender-based violence being 46% on average.

Through work of CSO Victimology Society of Serbia VDS, additional 59 (51 females and 8 males) professionals are trained for assessing victims' needs and potential risks, and for developing individual plans of support and protection in line with victims' needs, rights, and interests. At the same time, 79 victims received assistance and support in the VDS victim support service, out of that number 45 were women. Out of 45 women, 21 were victims of domestic violence. VDS also started with collecting data on the work of GCCs through direct monitoring of GCC's work and information sharing through pres-

ence of the VDS research team members at the meetings of the GCC. VDS teams are also observing the process and decision-making in regard specific cases and development of individual safety plans. A total of 19 cases were discussed and individual safety plans developed or amended. The data collected through direct monitoring of the GCCs will be analyzed and the results of the analysis added to the situation and needs-assessment report. Together with other data collected throughout the project, these will be used for developing final recommendations.

CSO Roma Women Center Bibija has successfully finalized the initiative of economic re-integration of 50 Roma women survivors of violence by enabling them to attend training courses for professional development and creating new employment opportunities, with the aim of improving their qualifications and skills in the labor market. Women from Pirot, Leskovac, Valjevo and Belgrade municipalities of Vozdovac and Palilula have finished the courses and the practical training, and gained their professional certificates in manicure - pedicure (8 beneficiaries); hair-dressing (8 beneficiaries); makeup artistry (14 beneficiaries); caregiving (3 beneficiaries); tailoring (4 beneficiaries), retail assistant - cashier (4 beneficiaries), massage (2 beneficiaries), bookkeeping (4 beneficiaries) and foreign language courses (1 beneficiary for English B2 and 1 for German), and waiter (1 beneficiary). The final research on successful models of economic re-integration of women survivors of violence from marginalized groups, with a proposed best-fit model adapted to the Serbian context, will be presented to public in September.

ACT FOR EQUAL

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GENDER RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE

Under the EU funded project ‘Support To Priority Actions For Gender Equality In Serbia II’, UN Women continued to support integration and implementation of the EU and national gender equality commitments in Serbia through improving legal and strategic framework for gender equality and capacities of the national gender machinery, integration of the gender perspective and principles into the national policies, EU funds programming and monitoring and support to CSOs to implement gender transformative initiatives. UN Women has been supporting the EU Delegation, Ministry of EU Integration and national IPA Units in gender mainstreaming of the annual IPA programs. Gender related inputs were provided for the six sector action documents under the Horizontal Facility that will be financed by EU.

Six CSOs were selected in January 2022 to implement measures contributing to elimination of gender-based stereotypes in areas such as: heritage, labour market, unpaid care work, and energy. The selected CSOs: Women’s Forum Prijepolje, Women’s Association of Kolubara District, Association of Business Women Serbia, Women’s Entrepreneurship Academy, RES Foundation, and Center E8, will implement projects until 10 February 2023. Contract award ceremony for the newly engaged CSOs was part of the event organized to mark International Women’s Day, as the main topic of the event was elimination of gender stereotypes. As a follow up, a campaign related to the gender-based stereotypes was launched and new projects were

promoted as part of the efforts to support their elimination and promotion of active role of women in the society. In addition, Serbia for the first time marked National Gender Equality Day on 11 June with a high-level event organized under the programme.

As part of the project activities, UN Women supports establishment and/or enhancement of the cooperation between women’s CSOs and institutions, especially gender mechanisms at all levels. In that respect, a series of thematic meetings and events were organized to enable exchange of knowledge, defining actions and measures that address adequately gender equality challenges.

These included:

- 25/2/22 Round table “Encouraging women’s entrepreneurship in the Pirot district through the implementation of the Resource Center for Organic Production” in Babusnica, organized by Luznice Handicrafts with support of the UN Women. Roundtable gathered representatives of CSOs and local authorities from Pirot, Dimitrovgrad, Bela Palanka and Babusnica, as well as experts from agricultural, advisory, and professional services in Pirot.
- 7/4/2022 Round table “Gender equality and economic empowerment of women in the Middle and North”, organized in Kikinda by UN Women in partnership with Zrenjanin Educational Center and Center for Support of Women. Part of the event was also a field visit to Network ‘Women’s divan’ in Idjos which gathers five associations of rural women with five in the process of becoming new members.

- 20/4/2022 Round table “They create - they innovate” in Belgrade, organized by the Association of Serbian Scientists “SRNA”, the Coordination Body for Gender Equality of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the UN Women. It was a part of the celebration of the World Day of Creativity and Innovation, and the goal was to emphasize the importance of a creative and innovative approach to problem solving and to pay tribute to women who, applying this approach, contribute to creating a better and more beautiful environment.
- 11/5/2022 Round table “Gender Equality and Women Economic Empowerment in Aleksinac”, organized by UN Women and Association for Development of Creativity in Aleksinac.
- 15/6/2022 Round table “Economic Empowerment of Women and Women Entrepreneurship in Sumadija district”, organized in Kragujevac by UN Women and Association Guide Mark, focusing on local context and the situation regarding WEE and women’s entrepreneurship in Sumadija. The final part of the event was an exhibition of products of the beneficiaries in the project “Strong and powerful again”.

In order to support the local self-government mechanisms for gender equality, open call for proposals to support development and implementation of the Local Action Plans for GE was published by CBGE and 39 LSG submitted their proposals. Independent review commission has been formed and selected 10 LSG: Cicevac, Arand-

jelovac, Uzice, Priboj, Zajecar, Bela Palanka, Vlasotince, Bojnik, Surdulica and Golubac. Meanwhile, implementation of gender responsive budgeting (GRB) continues to be expanded in 2022, in line with the Budget System Law, as part of the SIDA funded programme “Transformative Financing for Gender Equality: towards more Transparent, Inclusive and Accountable Governance in the Western Balkans”. The Ministry of Finance (MoF) has adopted the Annual Plan for GRB implementation, encompassing 3 new budget users, totaling to 51 institutions at national level that are obliged to further improve or introduce GRB in their 2023 budgets. This obligation pertains to all 26 budget users at the provincial level. To ensure that GRB implementation is in line with the key strategic documents and contributes to the closing of gender gap in various sectors, UN Women in partnership with the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and the Provincial Secretariat of Finance (PSF) organized comprehensive capacity development programme, including trainings, seminars and individual info-sessions for civil servants employed in more than 40 various institutions, as well as gender focal points.

To support GRB implementation at local level, UN Women provided expert support in establishment of GRB working groups in local administration, initiated development of gender analyses and conducted capacity development for employees of 9 local self-government units and their respective gender equality mechanisms (Belgrade municipality Zvezdara, Nis municipality Crveni Krst, Cacak, Kragujevac, Krusevac, Arandjelovac, Ljig, Razanj and Aleksinac).



The results of GRB implementation achieved through partnerships with the MoF, PSF and the Coordination Body for Gender Equality were highlighted in the first SDG 5.c.1. Report that the Republic of Serbia produced. The report was recognized in the SDG database and placed Serbia among only 7 countries in Europe that “fulfilled or almost fulfilled” this SDG indicator. This report, along with the GRB implementation at all governmental levels and piloting of synchronized usage of GRB to close the gender gap in the economic position of women were discussed at the conference organized jointly by UN Women, MoF and the CBGE in May 2022.

To ensure that the 7-year Development Plan of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, which is currently being developed, responds to the needs of different groups of women and men and contributes to the achievement of gender equality, UN Women provided expert support to the Provincial Government in gender mainstreaming of Plan’s objectives, measures and indicators.

UN Women supported further institutionalization of GRB capacity development and its sustainability through partnership with the National Academy for Public Administration. As of July 2022, GRB online training made of 14 video lectures produced in line with the NAPA’s official Learning Programme, is available to all civil servants in the Republic of Serbia through NAPA’s learning platform.

Further GRB institutionalization is secured also through the collaboration of UN Women and the State Audit Institution (SAI). Besides improving its practices related to GRB auditing as part of the financial audits, SAI agreed to conduct the first parallel regional auditing of SDG 5, to be conducted in 2023 and supported by UN Women.

Addressing the need to expand the pool of GRB experts, UN Women conducted regional Training of Trainers in Skopje, North Macedonia. As a result, six more experts are capacitated to provide expert support to governmental institutions and respond to the increasing need for assistance, particularly at local level.





UNFPA Serbia signed the Cooperation Agreement (Memorandum of Understanding) with the Coordination Body for Gender Equality of the Government of Serbia on 27 May 2022. The MoU will facilitate a collaboration in implementation of gender equality and advancement of position of women and girls in relation to sexual and reproductive health, elimination of gender-based violence in person and in online space, population policies, economic, civic and political participation and engagement, through advocacy, policy and programmes development, organization of thematic events, knowledge generating and sharing, awareness raising activities, and campaign. One of the first joint initiatives of UNFPA Serbia and the Coordination Body for Gender Equality is the bodyright campaign.

BODYRIGHT CAMPAIGN

In December 2020, the UNFPA HQ, initiated the bodyright campaign with the main goal to raise awareness about the widespread technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) and its consequences, and to urge decision makers and all relevant stakeholders to create protection mechanisms and support systems. Four UNFPA CO (Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Kosovo [UNSCR1244]) will jointly have 4 campaigns that follow the HQ campaign with focus on conceptual, systematic/legislative, technological, and societal aspects. The Coordination Body for Gender Equality in Serbia jointly with UNFPA Serbia will work on adaptation of narratives

around GBV that include deep awareness of all the forms of online violence and its impact understandable to the general public. In addition to this, it will participate in initiatives of the region.

First participation in the initiatives was in North Macedonia at the event on 20th June “The Virtual is Real: Strengthening legislative frameworks in support of Bodily Autonomy, which North Macedonia Office organized within the UNFPA led initiative of localization of Global Bodyright Campaign”. The Government of Serbia, Ms Gordana Comic, Minister for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialog and Ms Gordana Gavrilovic, counselor of the Coordination Body for Gender Equality shared its experience regarding gender-based violence in online space.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM “IMPROVEMENT OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH - PRIMARY AND SECONDARY PREVENTION OF CERVICAL CANCER”

UNFPA Serbia organized the international symposium “Improvement of Reproductive Health - Primary and Secondary Prevention of Cervical Cancer” on 6 July 2022 in Belgrade in hybrid format. The event was attended by 160 participants online and on the spot with the main goal to review the current situation in Serbia regarding primary and secondary prevention of cervical cancer in the Republic of Serbia, and present good practices in Europe and the

world in the use of HPV typing as a screening method. One of the key aspects of the event is the proposal to capitalize on the experience and capacity for PCR testing that Serbia developed since the COVID-19 outbreak to introduce HPV based screening as a pilot programme. As a follow up action and in order to continue discussion on prevention of cervical cancer, UNFPA Serbia has supported 10 national experts to develop articles on reproductive health that will be published in a specific issue of the Public Health Gazette in September 2022.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE RESEARCH INITIATIVE FORUM

UNFPA abstract **on research on violence against older women in Serbia and the Western Balkans region, Moldova, and Ukraine** was accepted on June 1, 2022 and will be presented at the SVRI Forum 2022 from 19-23 September 2022, in Cancun, Mexico. The research is based on GBV against older women in eight countries in Eastern Europe as a result of a partnership between countries, UNFPA COs, OSCE and EU. The results showed that 16.7% of older women in Serbia reported exposure to violence in the last 12 months while more than half (56.2%) reported some form of GBV since the age of 15. Older women experienced more physical violence and less psychological violence. This study addresses a clear call for GBV discussion to focus on the women population at large, regardless of their age, and to specifically focus on the situation of older women.





LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT (NHDR)

On the initiative of the President of the Republic of Serbia and in cooperation with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia, UNDP and UNFPA initiated several activities in order to increase understanding of current demographic trends and their influence on development in Serbia. One of these activities was the development of **the National Human Development Report (NHDR)** focused on the issue of population decline as the pronounced demographic trend in Serbia. The report on the issue – **Human Development in Response to Demographic Change** was launched on May 27, 2022 at the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, with high-level Government participation. One of the key messages of the event and report is that gender equality is part of the solution and not cause of “the problem” [reduced fertility, depopulation]. Changing attitudes about gender roles is one of the ways of consolidating the demographic development of Serbia.

Gender equality can bring higher fertility rates and greater participation of women in the labor market, and thus better use of human potential of the society.

UNECE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON AGING 2022

The National Report for the Fourth Review and Appraisal Cycle of the Implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Aging and its Regional Implementation Strategy (MIPAA/RIS) 2018 – 2022 for the Republic of Serbia was presented by the Minister of Labor, Employment, Veteran, and Social Affairs during the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Aging 2022 from June 15-17, 2022 in Rome, Italy. The report was prepared with the support of UNFPA and it extensively used the data presented in the Comprehensive National Report on Discrimination against Older Persons in the Republic of Serbia, consolidated by the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality. The main recommendations from the MIPAA Report indicate that over the last five years, Serbia has made considerable progress in many areas related to older people. However, there is a need to invest strongly in further development of intergenerational cooperation and exchange, full respect for human rights for all generations, as well as access to necessary services, especially for vulnerable groups such as older women and women living in the countryside.





THE GUIDELINES FOR GENDER ANALYSIS OF SMALL ARMS CONTROL LEGISLATION AND POLICIES LAUNCHED

The [Guidelines](#)¹ provide step-by-step guidance for a thorough review of relevant legislative and policy frameworks and thus facilitate the implementation of gender analysis in the small arms context. Grounded in a [large-scale exercise conducted in the Western Balkans](#), this document consolidates the key methodological lessons learned in conducting such analysis and shares good practices beyond the Western Balkans.

The publication provides detailed instructions for gender analysis, including setting the goal and defining the scope of such analysis - both in terms of identifying key gendered concerns for the analysis and legal and policy acts to be analyzed. In addition, the Guidelines contain a comprehensive list of questions for carrying out the gender analysis and provide guidance for formulating conclusions and recommendations.

In doing so, this document increases gender responsiveness of relevant legislations and policies through the comprehensive and systematic use of gender analysis and improves knowledge of the impact of legislative and policy frameworks on women, men, girls, and boys.

The Guidelines are available in English, [French](#), [Spanish](#) and [Ukrainian](#).

SEESAC POLICY BRIEFS PUBLISHED UNDER UNDP DEVELOPMENT FUTURE SERIES

Two UNDP SEESAC policy briefs were published under [UNDP Development Future Series](#) in April and June, respectively.

- Policy brief [Small Arms Control - The Case for Gender Mainstreaming](#) provides an overview of key evidence shaping arms control debates in South East Europe and facilitating making a case for mainstreaming gender in small arms control. The brief further outlines practical strategies for gender mainstreaming and highlights the importance of gender analysis in enhancing the gender responsiveness of arms control. Finally, it discusses the policy implications of bringing gender perspectives into arms control policies as well as ways forward.
- Policy Brief [Contributing to Resilience through the Integration of Gender Perspective in the Defence Sector Reform in Four Countries of The Western Balkans](#) offers possible responses on how gender equality in the armed forces can increase and contribute to the defense sector reform agenda. The emphasis is on regular gender-disaggregated data gathering combined with regional thematic cooperation (including MoD and SAF) that works as an accelerator of gender equality processes.

SUPPORT TO THE MINISTRIES OF DEFENCE (MODS) AND ARMED FORCES (AFS) IN THE WESTERN BALKANS (WB) IN IMPLEMENTING UNSCR 1325 AND INCREASING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE MILITARY²

- **Five representatives of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the Serbian Armed Forces (SAF) participated in the 14th Regional Meeting of Gender Equality Mechanisms (RGEM)**, alongside the representatives of the MoDs and AFs from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and North Macedonia. RGEM took place in April in North Macedonia. This regular bi-annual regional meeting enables regional knowledge exchange through presenting and discussing gender-related topics and planning joint activities to develop gender-responsive policies and practices in the military.

Six new gender trainers from MoD and SAF were awarded certificates at [the closing ceremony of the 3rd Gender Training of Trainers \(GToT\)](#) held from 23 May to 2 June in Skopje, North Macedonia. UNDP SEESAC organized GToT in cooperation with the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations (NCGM). One gender trainer from the MoD of Serbia participated in GToT delivery.

- The **Regional Baseline Study on Integrating Gender Perspective in Military Education**, the first of this kind in the region, is in the final stage. The RBS outlines the existing policies and practices in military education and provides the baseline for recommendations on integrating a gender perspective in military education and training. **Six representatives of the MoD and SAF actively** participate in the Regional Working Group developing the Regional Baseline Study. At the end of June, the Regional Working Group met to review the [final draft of RBS](#) and successfully agreed on the joint set of recommendations to promote the integration of gender perspectives in military education and training curricula.
- Six gender trainers from MoD and SAF participated in the **6th regional meeting of the Regional Network of Gender Military Trainers**, organized in July in Montenegro. As a result of the meeting, gender trainers from the region agreed on the next steps for developing an online course to increase gender awareness among the MoDs and AFs personnel. The regional cooperation in developing online training modules will further promote the regional exchange of knowledge related to the gender perspective in the military and contribute to the quality of learning materials.

¹ The Guidelines were produced with the financial assistance of the European Union, through EU Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/1788 in support of SEESAC for the implementation of the Regional Roadmap on combating illicit arms trafficking in the Western Balkans.

² SEESAC's project Strengthening of Regional Cooperation on Gender Mainstreaming in Security Sector Reform in the Western Balkans (WinMil) provides support to four Ministries of Defence (MoDs) and Armed Forces (AFs) in the Western Balkans (WB) in implementing UNSCR 1325 and increasing gender equality in the military. Partners include MoDs and AFs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia and Republic of Serbia. Funding support is provided by the Kingdom of Norway and the Slovak Republic.



SWISS PRO – SUPPORT TO ENHANCEMENT OF GENDER EQUALITY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

In the **comprehensive three-year technical support to 44 local self-governments**, a strong contribution was made to positive changes, strengthening local mechanisms for gender equality and creating local women's councilor networks.

As a result of **institutional strengthening support**, a mechanism for gender equality was established in 31 local self-governments (LGs), while 28 LGs adopted gender policies. The contribution to the continuous implementation of these policies and gender initiatives was achieved through the **establishment of women's councilor networks in 30 LGs**. Relevant training programmes for 128 representatives of women's council networks and mechanisms for gender equality contributed to better understanding of introducing gender perspectives into local policies.

The implementation of 26 projects from local gender action plans contributed to increasing the visibility of local mechanisms for gender equality, improving the position of women in rural areas and encouraging greater participation of women in decision-making processes. Through these projects, over **5,500 beneficiaries (3,331 women)** benefited from better access to public services, capacity building and procurement of equipment.

Through the **implementation of 107 social inclusion projects** that generated access to rights and entitlements, public services, and their improvement of the position in the

local communities, the Programme has contributed to improving the socio-economic status of 8,190 women. Furthermore, these projects contributed to employment, as a total of 128 women were employed after the completion of capacity building activities for improving their employability which represents a success rate of almost 50.

As a part of continuous **capacity building activities on good governance**, 1,391 women employed in local self-governments have completed relevant training programmes, with 858 women receiving accredited certificates by the National Academy for Public Administration.

EU PRO PLUS – WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

As a result of provided support to 23 medical institutions in preventing and combating COVID-19 through engagement of medical and non-medical teams, the EU PRO Plus Programme has facilitated provision of 2,645,419 medical services related to COVID-19, out of which 1,376,993 services were provided to women and girls.

Within the efforts to enhance competitiveness and sustainability of entrepreneurs, micro and small enterprises (MSEs), equal opportunities and increased women representation in business related activities are considered through the Call for Proposals which foresees also women-owned enterprises and employment of women. Furthermore, this Call envisages benefits for women and other vulnerable groups through

promotion of the corporate social responsibilities (CSR) activities among the business entities. The Call was recently closed and around 30% of the received applications were submitted by the women-owned business.

Gender mainstreaming is a relevant aspect in developing Integrated Sustainable Territorial Development (ISTD) and within the activities of enhancing capacities of the local and national institutions to introduce ISTD, over 60 of female participants attended the workshops on territorial development instruments for LGs and Regional Development Agencies (RDAs).

EU SHAI – CONTRIBUTION TO IMPROVED LIVING CONDITIONS FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE GROUPS

Through the **implementation of 20 active grants in LGs** for integrated support to multiple vulnerable target groups of Roma, persons with disabilities (PWDs), women victims of domestic violence and youth leaving the social care system, the EU SHAI Programme contributed to improved living conditions for the most vulnerable women and men, girls and boys in a sustainable and accountable manner.

This has been achieved through the construction of multi-family buildings, provision of individual houses/apartments and reconstruction of private houses complemented with active social inclusion measures. Gender mainstreaming is an integrated part of the projects and up to this period, 199 families have been selected

with 658 family members, out of which 348 are female.

All women are legally registered owners of the housing support solutions, together with their spouses and partners.

Twenty eight women victims of domestic violence with their families are supported with social housing apartments and individual houses in ownership. Women are also supported through integrated active inclusion measures in access to services, employment and income generating support, support to formal and informal education and rising employability and tailored measures for overcoming challenges and obstacles in inclusion of the target group and individual. Specifically for PWDs the challenges have been overcome in Kula through capacity building and employment of six women with disabilities through establishment of a social enterprise for paper ware production.



unicef



UN WOMEN
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women



INTEGRATED RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SERBIA III

Within this multi-year joint **project**, UN agencies and the Government of Serbia, supported by the Government of Sweden, are working to **enable women and girls, especially those from vulnerable groups, to live lives free from violence. Our aim is to ensure that women and girls are encouraged to report violence and that they receive timely and effective institutional protection.**

ADVOCACY

The project supports the National Coalition to End Child Marriage in implementing a roadmap to end child marriage in Serbia. An important result of the Coalition's advocacy efforts is the adoption of the **Declaration on the elimination of child marriage** by the National Council of the Roma National Minority. The declaration calls for the reconsideration of both the practice of child marriage and the belief that it is a part of the authentic cultural heritage of the Roma. As a result of the Coalition's previous proposals, amendments to the Family Law that include a provision banning child marriage are expected to enter the official endorsement procedure by end of 2022.

TRAININGS

The project works to prevent harmful practices that lead to the perpetuation of violence, such as physical disciplining of children. It ensures that parents are supported by the representatives of the health, education and social

welfare system in applying positive parenting and non-violent disciplining methods. To prepare professionals in these systems for this task, **trainings on non-violent child disciplining** were organized in June. In total, 277 social welfare professionals from over 60 social care and child protection institutions in 9 cities completed the trainings.

Through support to the Provincial Secretariat for Social Policy, Demography and Gender Equality, professionals from institutions responsible for responding to domestic violence cases in 10 municipalities in Vojvodina **gained hands-on knowledge on how to work together to solve complex cases of domestic violence.** In addition, 317 professionals from 20 municipalities participated in specialized trainings tailored to help them be able to better protect and support women survivors of violence from marginalized groups and those facing multiple discrimination, as well as women survivors of specific forms of violence, including sexual violence.

The project works with the National Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence gathering all ministries competent for responding to domestic and gender-based violence, to ensure that victims receive the same level of institutional protection throughout the country. Since the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence became effective, several counties have been supported through training in dealing with complex domestic violence cases in practice. From February to June 2022, over 140 professionals from three different counties participated in interactive trainings focusing on improving professionals' cooperation and

practices, as well as planning of appropriate interventions that lead to reduced escalation or repetition of domestic violence.

Until end of July 2022, 69 healthcare professionals have completed the online training on preventing and responding to gender-based violence (with 85 more enrolled for the upcoming period). Since March, this **training is available through the official platform of the Faculty of Medicine in Belgrade, for continuous medical education.**

SERVICES

The project supports the work of four existing Centers for Victims of Sexual Violence. To ensure beneficiaries' good health, free testing for sexually transmitted diseases was provided. Emergency contraception has also been made available in the centers, as this service is not covered by the regular state health insurance. To expand the availability of services provided by the Centers, preparatory activities for the establishment of three new centers have been initiated.

PREVENTION

With the project's support, the Ministry of Justice launched its updated website dedicated to ending domestic violence. The website contains information that help survivors of violence and their families to recognize the phenomenon of domestic violence and report it. Official monthly statistics on survivors and perpetrators of

domestic violence, good practice examples and Q&A guidelines for effective institutional response are also available. A separate section for media contains guidelines for reporting on domestic violence. For more inclusive access to relevant information, the website features a section in Serbian sign language.

A **research** on gender-based online violence faced by secondary school girls and their strategies of response to such violence, was also conducted within the project. It showed that 78 of young girls believe they are not equally safe in digital space as young men and only 53 of respondents stated that girls should not feel guilty for the violence they experienced, regardless of the content they posted in the digital space. The results of this research provided a basis for topics of public actions implemented by girl activists from local youth offices in Belgrade, Niš and Subotica and future advocacy for improving response to gender-based violence in digital space.

To share experiences and good practices related to 10 awareness-raising youth public actions, reaching over 2000 young people in these three cities, 26 local youth office representatives gathered in June. The meeting helped to **network girl activists** from different local communities and provided space for **exchanging successful strategies of local actions for gender equality and ending gender-based discrimination.**

The main efforts of this joint initiative to eliminate violence against women are captured in a short **video** released on the occasion of marking of June 11 - National Gender Equality Day in Serbia.



„JOURNALISTS AGAINST VIOLENCE“ MEDIA MONITORING RESULTS: REPORTING IS LESS SENSATIONALIST, BUT THERE IS STILL INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION ON PREVENTION AND PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM VIOLENCE

In the previous three years, media coverage of violence against women has improved, primarily by being less sensationalist or justifying violent acts. However, revealing the identity of victims remains a damaging media practice. These are just some of the findings of the [Analysis of media reporting on the problem of violence against women from 2019 to 2021](#), conducted by the group „Journalists against violence“, whose work has been supported by UNDP in Serbia since the group’s establishment in 2017. This group of 90 women journalists and media editors provides guidance on how to contribute to the prevention of domestic violence through educational and informative media reporting. The group recently updated their [Guidelines for reporting on violence against women](#) and created specialized [trainings](#) for journalists. Media are also increasingly using the group’s free [photo/illustration database](#) created to serve as an additional resource for ethical media reporting on violence against women.

NATIONAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2022 FOR SERBIA

The National Human Development Report 2022 for Serbia was launched and [presented](#) in the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia in May. This [strategic document](#) provides a new perspective on the challenges of a shrinking and aging population in Serbia and was developed in cooperation with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The report covers nine relevant fields of recommended interventions: family support, labour market, migration, education, health, and aging; urban development, environment, and climate change. One of the key messages of the report is that today, **gender equality is part of the solution, not the cause of the problem**. As it is stated, gender equality may bring about higher fertility rates and greater participation of women in the labour market, and consequently better use of the human resources in a society. Additionally, it is recommended that existing pro-fertility measures should be expanded through support mechanisms towards families of different value preferences – both traditional and modern.

WOMEN IN STEM

UNDP works to promote inclusion of women in the digital professions of the 4th Industrial Revolution by increasing the visibility of obstacles women face in STEM fields and by promoting role models and implementing programs to enable more women to work in the IT sector.

Position of Women in STEM discussed at Kopaonik Business Forum 2022

At the 2022 Kopaonik Business Forum¹, UNDP hosted a panel titled “Women in STEM” held on March 8 – International Women’s Day. The panel was opened by UNDP Serbia RR Francine Pickup who pointed out that “women need to be included in the digital world not only as consumers and users, but also as innovators, creators and decision-makers”. The discussion focused on the value of women in STEM for improvement of the general situation of women and broader economic and social development, as well as obstacles that women face in STEM fields, from traditional perceptions of gender roles and appropriate careers for women and men to segregation in education and unwelcoming work environments affecting women’s participation in higher and better paid positions. Participants pointed to the significance of support for girls and young women to pursue careers in STEM, such as formal and informal education and training, positive role models and networking among women, as well as the need for companies in STEM fields to ensure a gender-bias free work environment where women can contribute to better ser-

vices and goods. Some of the points made at the panel were also captured in an interview with UNDP RR [Francine Pickup](#) and data scientist [Tatjana Keckojevic](#), focusing on how digital transformation can benefit women’s empowerment and gender equality.

55% women among applicants for IT Retraining Programme

UNDP has launched a new cycle of the “[Retraining for IT](#)” Programme in May. Training courses will be conducted during this and next year, and will be held online, so that participants from all over Serbia can acquire new IT knowledge and skills at their homes. One of the goals of this program is to involve more women and support them to use their talents, improve their IT skills and facilitate their employment in this fast-growing sector with a potential for high income. This is very important considering that most employees in the IT sector in Serbia, as well as in many other countries in the world, are men. Of the nearly 1,500 applicants for the new online retraining program, almost 55 are women. After testing, 400 selected candidates will receive at least 250 hours of professional training in programming languages, as well as 40 hours of training in ‘soft’ skills (writing a CV, preparing for a job interview, workplace communication) and 120 hours of practice. This program is organized by the Office of the Prime Minister in partnership with the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs and the Office for Information Technologies and E-Government, in cooperation with UNDP.



BIO SOAP PRODUCTION THAT CONTRIBUTES TO WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND PROTECTS THE ENVIRONMENT

The association BIO IDEA for Sustainable Development has developed a social franchise of over 2000 households across Serbia. It focuses mainly on women of different ages to teach them how to make home-made soap using leftover cooking oil from their households to generate additional income and save money. At the same time, their workshops network women from different ethnic groups living side by side. This initiative was selected as one of the best solutions under the “Bio-waste Management Challenge Call” organised by UNDP and the Ministry of Environmental Protection, with the support of the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency. The goal of this challenge was to support the implementation of innovative solutions for management of food waste, as well as green waste from parks and gardens and contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and pollution, as well as to the development of the circular economy in Serbia. A video story documents this valuable initiative.

FOSTERING THE NETWORKING OF WOMEN IN LOCAL DECISION MAKING

To initiate the establishment of the network of the women local assembly members in Bujanovac, a workshop with women representatives in the local assembly was held in

June 2022. Participants discussed the position of women in local self-governments in Serbia and relevant provisions of the Law on Gender Equality, gender-responsive budgeting, as well as significance of networking for greater impact in decision making processes. Participants also shared their perspectives about the situation of women in rural areas and inclusion of CSOs in the work of the local assembly. Activities in Bujanovac will continue within the project “Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy and Inclusive Political Dialogue”.

SUPPORT TO LOCAL ACTIONS THAT EMPOWER WOMEN AND GIRLS

In May 2022, thirty CSO projects were selected to be financed through the Regional Programme on Local Democracy in the Western Balkans 2 (ReLOaD2), implemented by UNDP and funded by the European Union. Out of 4427 expected direct beneficiaries of these projects, over 60 are women, while four projects are entirely dedicated to women and gender equality as an overall goal. Their areas of intervention are:

- breast cancer prevention,
- encouraging and developing creativity in adolescent women/girls,
- encouraging and enabling adult women in rural areas who are or want to become entrepreneurs.

The projects are expected to start by October 2022.



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GENDER RESPONSIVE PARENTING PROGRAMME

To mark this year's Parenting Month, two mothers and two fathers told their stories about what makes their parenthood easier and how play helps them achieve their goals together. This is a **real-life story** about personal change, in the light of practicing gender-balanced parenting, accomplished with the support of early childhood development practitioners – a home visiting nurse from Novi Pazar and a preschool teacher from Kragujevac (empowered through the Playful Parenting Program implemented by UNICEF in cooperation with the Government of Serbia with the support of the LEGO Foundation).

During the Parenting Month, UNICEF has launched, in co-operation with the Ministry of Health and partners, a fundraising campaign for children with developmental disabilities and their families entitled **~Dad, Mum, We Are with You!~** The campaign is part of national efforts to equip intersectoral Teams for Early Childhood Intervention coordinated by developmental counselling units within Primary Health Centres across the country. The equipment includes assistive technology, digital devices, transport vehicles, child/family friendly furniture, didactic materials tailored to the needs of children and parents. The campaign also will support empowerment of experts from different sectors for the implementation of Family-Oriented Early Childhood Intervention Programme. This will allow more efficient outreach work at family homes and kindergartens aimed to ensure that all fa-

thers, mothers and children up to 6 years of age with developmental difficulties and disabilities have access to services crucial to their development, especially children not living in large cities.

MATERNAL, CHILD HEALTH AND BREASTFEEDING – MAINTAINING THE CONTINUITY OF CARE IN FOCUS

In occasion of the World Breastfeeding Week, mothers and fathers from Belgrade and nearby cities gathered at Dorcol Platz on July 31 to unlock, with the support of breastfeeding advisors and health professionals, their uncertainties, and to share personal stories of success. This dialogue was facilitated by the Association Parent, with the support of UNICEF, under the slogan *~Step up for breastfeeding: Educate and Support~*. Remarkable number of fathers attended the workshop with the aim to better understand the role they can play in ensuring breastfeeding success.

June was the month of intense dialogue between the Ministry of Health, the Republic Expert Commission on Breastfeeding Support, UNICEF and the Serbian Chamber of Commerce on fostering adoption of **fair play** policies related to product placement of breast milk substitutes. This dialogue is expected to result in higher sensitivity of producers and marketers of breastfeeding milk substitutes versus the need to support breastfeeding **as the best choice for every child** on communication materials and product declarations, as well as in fairer market-

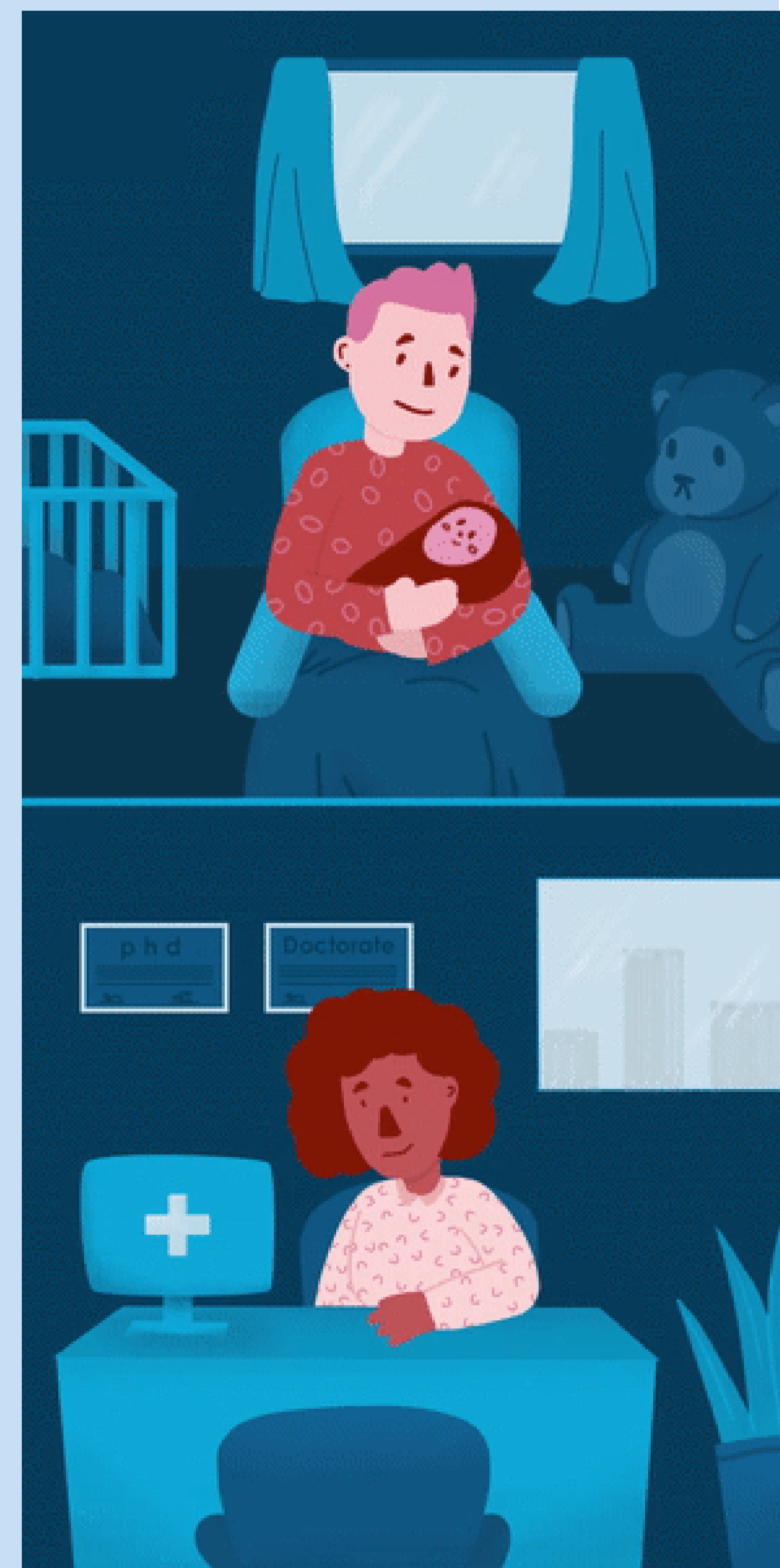
ing that undoubtedly affect mothers' and fathers' opinion, decisions, and perseverance in breastfeeding.

NEW STRATEGIES RELEVANT TO GENDER EQUALITY

UNICEF participation in the process of adoption of new **Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma Men and Women 2022-2030**, as well as **new Strategy for the Prevention of Discrimination 2022-2030** with accompanying **Action Plan**, have resulted in envisaging strategic goals and measures relevant to the implementation of developed models for drop-out prevention, enhanced coverage of girls from vulnerable groups with primary education, and their effective transition to secondary education.

NATIONAL REPORT ON INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

UNICEF supported development of the Second National Report on Inclusive Education 2019-2021, which provided insight in all key improvements and challenges in the inclusive education implementation, coordination and monitoring. One of the main findings and recommendations of the Report refers to measures for the increase of **coverage of girls from vulnerable groups with mainstream education**, as well as **for their enhanced social and education inclusion and prevention of drop-out**. The Report's findings and recommendations will be subject of the national consultations and integrated in the Education Strategy Action Plan 2024-2026.



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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION LEGAL FRAMEWORK

UNICEF supported development of the analysis of the compliance of Serbian national inclusive education legislative framework with the international standards, which provided significant recommendations for further development of **gender sensitive and gender responsible education legislative**. Recommendations include legal amendments necessary to address gender stereotypes, support to education of girls from vulnerable groups, prevention of gender related drop-out, introducing gender sensitive language, promoting gender equality and prevention of gender-based discrimination and violence. The recommendations will serve to the respective national working groups which will, in the following period, work on the national education legal framework development.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN EMERGENCIES (GBVIE): ADDRESSING GBV AFFECTING REFUGEE AND MIGRANT WOMEN AND CHILDREN

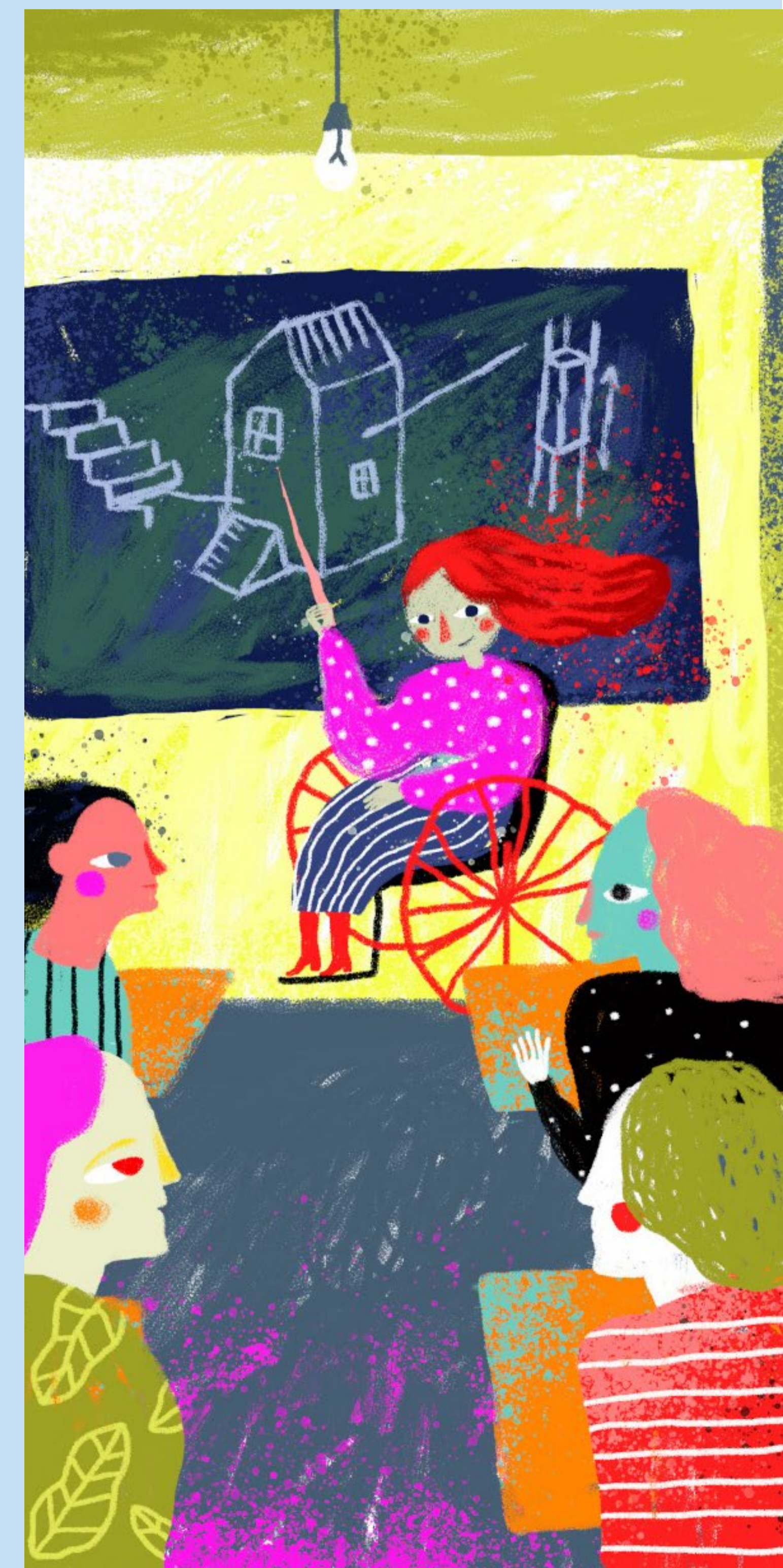
UNICEF with implementing partner Info Park has continued to ensure increased availability and accessibility of **GBVIE prevention and response services**, as well as gender-sensitive child protection and psychosocial support for refugee and migrant children, adolescents, and women in Serbia.

The support services are provided through **Women and Girls Safe Space and outreach activities** in Belgrade, including specialized remote and in-person GBV prevention and psychosocial support for women and girls' survivors/in risk of GBV (through workshops and info-sessions, and individually via hotline, safe space), and safe referral and support to case management in GBV cases – over 800 women/girls were included in this period. Recognizing the specific vulnerabilities of refugee women and girls and how these can increase risks of GBV to mitigate these risks UNICEF has continued to distribute **dignity/hygiene kits** with key hygiene and other vital items for women, girls and boys including UASC accommodated in reception/asylum centres, social protection institutions and shelters in total 350 persons received in this period.

SUPPORT TO THE EDUCATION OF REFUGEE AND MIGRANT GIRLS IN SERBIA

In order to provide education continuity for children on the move, UNICEF has, since 2020, partnered with Akelius Foundation to provide the distance learning opportunities for children on the move at three reception/asylum centers in Serbia, through provision of digital equipment, strengthening learning conditions in reception/asylum centers, provision of English courses, as well as support to children enrolled in the formal education system in Serbia. Bearing in mind traditional gender roles and norms project focuses also specifically on encour-

agement and outreach to girls on the move and their parents to enrol their female children in learning activities conducted within the Akelius learning initiative. Gender gap has been successfully tackled, as in two phases of the project (2020/2021 and 2021/2022 school years) girls presented over 40 of participants.





FIGURES AND STATISTICS:

Among the **13,083** newly arrived persons observed between February and July 2022, **91.8%** were men, **5.6%** were children, including **434** UASC, and only **2.6%** were women.

As per SCRМ data, at end-July 2022, 5,719 refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in 14 governmental asylum/reception/transit centres, of which 5,236 men [93%], 168 women [3%] and 227 children [4%]. Meanwhile 25% of all the children recorded in the centres were UASC [57]. No new cases of recognition of asylum status were granted to women asylum-seekers during the reporting period. UNHCR and partners provide legal assistance and an individualized integration support to recognized refugees.

UKRAINIAN RESPONSE:

Since the escalation of conflict in Ukraine, the Serbian Ministry of Interior (MOI) has noted a total of **72,638** persons who fled the country and entered Serbia. On March 17, the Government of Serbia adopted a Decision to grant Temporary Protection (TP) to all persons fleeing from UKR, which became effective on March 18, 2022. As of the beginning of March 2022, the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migration (SCRМ) has begun accommodating refugees from Ukraine in Vranje Asylum Center (AC), that was renovated with UNHCR funds and equipped with IKEA support. At end-July, **87** (11 men, 51 women, 16 boys, and 9 girls) refugees were accommodated in Vranje AC. During the reporting period, a total of **867** persons (149 men, 490

women, 109 boys and 119 girls) requested temporary protection, out of which **817** were granted the TP. UNHCR and its partners have conducted a range of activities including workshops (for sewing and manicure) and Serbian language classes in a classroom specially equipped by Sigma Plus. Simultaneously, UNHCR has started a mapping of Ukrainian refugees in private accommodation, in order to assess their needs and timely plan the response.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2022:

UNHCR and partners organized multiple events to commemorate the International Women's Day (IWD), 8th of March, under the theme "*Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow*". {Sigma Plus, INDIGO, CRPC, DRC}. Respectively, DRC organized celebration of IWD in the Women Safe Space in Krnjaca Asylum Centre with 17 female participants who attended a presentation by female refugee from Cameroon on reason for marking the IWD.

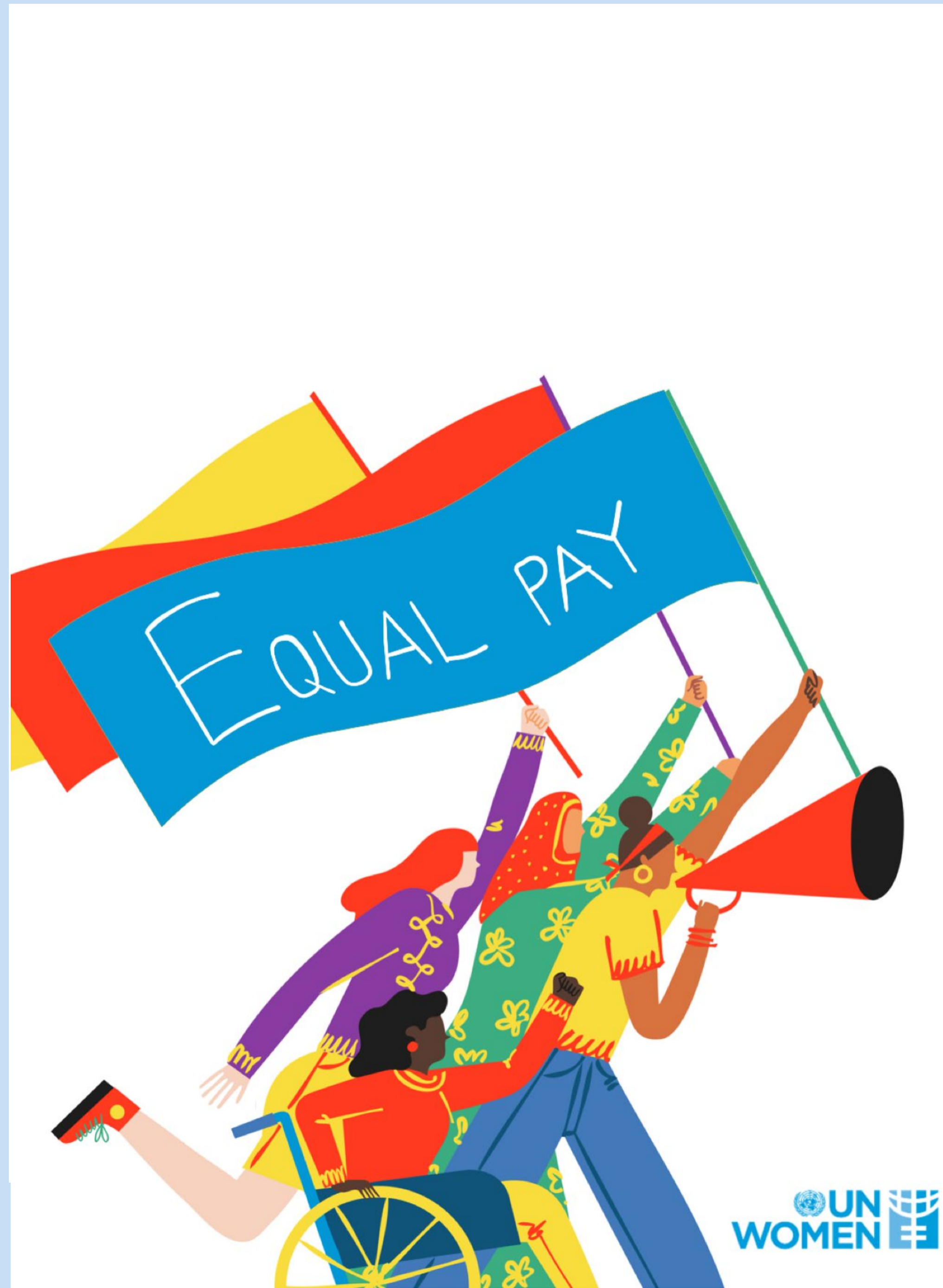
WOMEN LEADERSHIP AND GENDER EMPOWERMENT IN REFUGEE COMMUNITIES:

In order to reduce risk of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), to promote resilience and to aid recovery of communities, UNHCR and DRC has implemented various groups of activities targeting women and girls mainly. Furthermore, DRC has developed specific activities for engaging young men and boys in transforming harmful social norms that perpetuate gender inequality and promoting

the health and safety of women and girls. These activities included: identification of GBV survivors, empowerment activities, peer education and protection monitoring. A total of **18** GBV survivors were identified, assisted and referred to specialized services. One survivor has been referred to the Center for Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking and she has been granted status of victim of human trafficking on March 7. Another two GBV survivors were represented in the civil proceedings on determination of parental rights. 30 empowerment activities for women at Women Safe Space in Krnjaca Asylum Centre, grouped in three thematic areas: legal, women empowerment and health raising awareness (14 workshops encompassing 79 females, on Reproductive Health and Family Planning, Breast Cancer Early Detection, Sexually Transmitted Infections and HIV, PSS, COVID1-9 related preventive measures and immunization).



NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL DAYS



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, 8 MARCH

This year's International Women's Day was marked by UN Women in cooperation with Coordination Body for Gender Equality of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, the Ministry of European Integration and EU Delegation to Serbia, on 7 March in The Nebojsa Tower Hall in Belgrade. The event brought together different generations of women from different walks of life in Serbia who work in different areas to combat gender stereotypes: from land rights and labor market to unpaid care work, gender and energy, and youth.

Several isolated stereotypes were presented in the form of animations projected on the wall while experts addressed certain stereotypes in detail, and suggested a way to combat it. In addition, grants in the amount of 20.2 million dinars were awarded to six women's organizations from Serbia - Women's forum Prijepolje, Women's Association of the Kolubara County, The Association of Business Women in Serbia, Academy for Women's Entrepreneurship, RES Foundation and Center E8, for initiatives aimed at defying existing gender stereotypes.

NATIONAL DAY OF GENDER EQUALITY, 11 JUNE

UN Women Serbia marked the National Day of Gender Equality, for the first time, on 10 June, in Konak Knjeginje Ljubice in Belgrade. The event was organized in partnership with The Coordination Body for Gender Equality of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and EU Delegation to Serbia. On this occasion, the awards for the promotion of gender equality in several categories were handed over to: prof. Dr. Marijana Pajvancic for contribution to the improvement of public policies, practices and impact on society, Ms. Miljana Pe-

jjic, representative of National Youth Council of Serbia (KOMs) for contribution to improving the position of young people from the perspective of gender equality, AVON Company for contribution to the improvement of the labor rights of women and men and the harmonization of work, family and personal life, actor Milan Maric for public advocacy for improving the position of women and prof. Dr. Ivanka Popovic for contribution to the improvement of gender equality in academia and science.