



WOMEN AND MEN IN SERBIA: AT A GLANCE

KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN SERBIA

The Council of Europe Expert Group on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) published its first baseline evaluation report on Serbia. The report contains a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of the provisions of the Istanbul Convention. It welcomes several legislative acts, the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence being the central one, national plans and strategies which offer a response to some of the forms of violence against women and domestic violence in Serbia. Nevertheless, GREVIO notes that in general, patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes prevail in Serbia regarding the roles, responsibilities and the expected behaviour of women and men in society and the family.

To make a roadmap for promoting gender equality, Serbia's national gender equality mechanism, the Coordination Body for Gender Equality, has developed the National Action Plan 2019-2020. The plan is in line with the Beijing Platform for Action as Serbian government had committed to taking strategic, bold action in 12 critical areas of concern: poverty, education and training, health, violence, armed conflict, economy, power and decision-making, institutional mechanisms, human rights, media, environment, and the girl child. This year marks 25 years since the Beijing Platform for Action set out how to remove the systemic barriers that hold women back from equal participation in all areas of life, whether in public or in private.

The country's Commissioner for Equality conducted a public opinion survey on discrimination in Serbia and the results show that 46% of respondents believe that women are the most discriminated group. Another report published by the Commissioner shows that this discrimination of women is especially present in the field of work. Therefore, the document calls equal participation in the existing markets with better redistribution of unpaid care work, as well as development of mechanisms inside companies preventing employers implement discriminatory policies and measures.

A rise of violence against women in public discourse in Serbia continued hindering the freedom of expression, which negatively affects the democratic process. A newly adopted "Strategy for Public Information System Development in the Republic of Serbia by 2020-2025" reads that women are continuously underrepresented and stereotyped in the news and calls for more and better anti-discriminatory representation of women in the media.

The Government also adopted an Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy for Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings, specially focusing on women and children. The Action Plan envisions developing an early warning system for the risks of trafficking in human beings, and in particular women and children.



We don't fight for our own happy endings. We fight to **say you can't**. We fight for **accountability**. We fight to establish **precedent**. We fight because we **pray we'll be the last ones to feel this kind of pain**.

- Chanel Miller

Quote from her memoir *Know My Name*

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I teach my child that her body is her own and that no one should touch her without **permission**. While I don't want to scare her, I do want to arm her.

- Padma Lakshmi
UNDP Goodwill Ambassador





COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Under the project “Improved Safety for Women and Girls”, the Ministry of Interior the support of UN Women continued building its capacities for establishing a system to track urgent protection measures for protection from violence against women and girls. A study visit to Portugal for selected 10 (6 women and 4 men) representatives of the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Justice, the Coordination Body for Gender Equality, The Ministry of Labour has been organized in the period 2-3 December 2019. Portugal started using Electronic Monitoring for Domestic Violence (DV) in 2012 and the program is managed by the EM Department, which is a part of the Probation branch of Portuguese Correctional Services. Study visit provided a niche for an exchange of information on legal, judicial and police frameworks, together with sharing the experiences on institutional coordination of the Government response to VAWG. Thus, as expected members of the Serbian Delegation gained a good understanding of the experience and current practices of the Portuguese system of preventing gender-based violence and responding to it; they gained a good understanding of the use and implementation of electronic monitoring bracelets in response to VAW, a public initiative in Portugal to protect victims of gender-based violence by tracking both the victims and perpetrators; and they established good working relations with their Portuguese counterparts for continuous experience sharing and learning also beyond the time-frame of the study visit.

Within the reporting period, UN Women continued having donor coordination meetings on co-financing the introduction of the electronic bracelet system in Serbia. Based on the request from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs a direct contract for the implementation of Improved Safety of Women project was signed on 25 November 2019. The agreement covers implementation period from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2022.

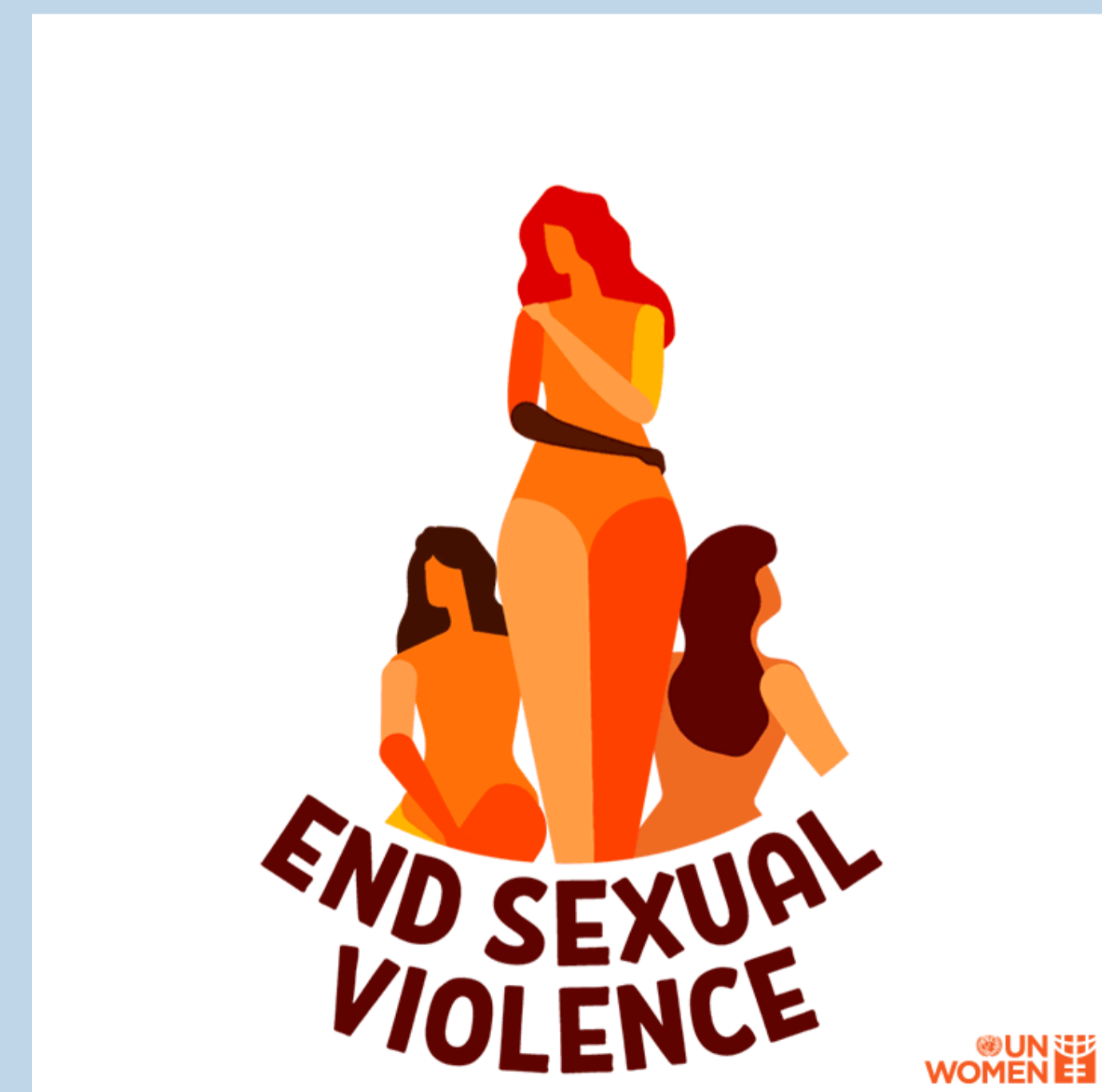
Finally, UN Women initiated the process of proposing the most suitable cooperation framework including both the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Justice for piloting the new protection measure - the bracelet for victim(s) and perpetrator(s) system.

With the support of UN Women under the regional programme “Ending VAW: Implementing norms, changing minds”, women CSOs from Serbia have traditionally been active in their watchdog role towards the implementation of the internationally binding and ratified conventions, and with the support of the programme, upon the issuance of the CEDAW Concluding Observations following the IV periodic review of Serbia in 2019, the detailed matrix for monitoring the CEDAW Committee recommendations, with clear progress and status indicators defined has been developed. Based on the Government of Serbia request, the developed monitoring matrix has been amended in line with the official procedures of the government and will be used by the government entities to moni-

tor the implementation of the Concluding Observations, and latter set the bases for data collection for the next CEDAW periodic report of Serbia.

Moreover, women CSOs supported by the programme established the knowledge bases for the Femicide Review Investigation in Serbia by conducting groundbreaking research translated into the first-ever interdisciplinary study on femicide in Serbia. The study, entitled “Societal and Institutional Responses to Femicide in Serbia”, examines the causes, triggers, and responses to cases of femicide. The study was based on an analysis of court judgments from high courts, case studies, in-depth interviews with perpetrators, and an analysis of the capacities of Serbian institutions to respond to and collect data on cases of femicide. In Serbia, like in most countries, cases of femicide are not tracked systematically, and the study provided bases for the creation of Model for improvements in data collection and the methodology of forensic examination at the scene of the crime, that was endorsed by the working group of professionals from the Council for Eradicating the Domestic Violence.

In partnership with women CSOs from Central Serbia and Vojvodina province, the capacities of general and specialist service providers have been improved to provide adequate and accessible services to at least 3,000 most vulnerable and multiply discriminated women in the society in the situation of violence. In line with “living no one behind” agenda, services for women with disabilities,





Roma women and rural were improved, by enabling the innovative solutions for reaching out to these groups, such as a) establishing a model of “women of trust” to support multiply vulnerable women from Roma communities, as well as women living in rural and isolated mountainous areas of Serbia, where patriarchal norms are predominant, b) improvement of the services of general and specialist service providers for women with disabilities, such as enabling the online reporting of violence, along with enabling the communication with professionals in the sign language, as well as c) strengthened quality of services to women and girls with disabilities survivors of rape and sexual assault through amending the procedures of the Center for victims of sexual violence to fit the needs of women with disabilities, as well sensitized employees of the Center’s to recognize and respond to the specificities of this group of women.

As a result of intensified efforts towards challenging harmful gender stereotypes and norms among youth, the behavior of over 2500 teenage boys and girls have been triggered through the specific COMBI methodology (communication for behavioral changes) in 15 towns and cities throughout Serbia. By applying this model, several innovative actions have been piloted, such as the Living Library, a storytelling concept to high school students on practical solutions to changing violent behaviors; “Boys - ambassadors of change”, to eradicate violent attitudes in the teenager age; well as “The power of change”, a methodology to increase teenage girls’ self-esteem to prevent entering violent relationships.

Finally, intensified actions with 15 media outlets in Serbia on changing the media attitudes and reporting towards VAW, resulted in 192 published articles fully respecting the victim’s/survivor’s privacy and avoiding the sensationalistic and harmful details, leading to secondary victimization. Out of 192 published articles, 80% contained a paragraph on prevention along with the information on services available at the national and/or local level, reaching over 100,000 readers.

The phase I of the programme “Ending VAW: Implementing norms, Changing minds” has been completed on January 31, 2020, while the support for the programme Phase II has been confirmed by the EU Commission in December 2019, with allocating additional 2,8 mil EUR aiming at ending gender-based discrimination and violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey in period of February 2020-July 2021.





Support to Priority Actions for
Gender Equality in Serbia

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SUPPORT TO PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR GENDER EQUALITY IN SERBIA

As part of the Project “Support to Priority Actions for Gender Equality in Serbia”, the Gender Equality Facility Serbia, funded by the European Commission within the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) II, UN Women supports the Government of the Republic of Serbia in effective implementation of the EU Gender Equality Acquis and the National Strategy for Gender Equality 2016-2020.

Based on the success from the first round of support in 2018, UN Women continued and widened the partnership with 12 new local self-governments/Local Gender Equality Mechanisms, from the Municipalities of Backa Palanka, Becej, Blace, Kursumlija, Nova Varos, Raska, Svrlijig, Vlasotince and the Cities of Kraljevo, Kragujevac, Pozarevac and Vranje, to implement measures and activities from adopted Local Action Plan on Gender Equality. As a result of this support, 423 women were trained through 86 capacity building events for women’s entrepreneurship; marketing and development of IT skills; sewing and agricultural and business development. In total, more than 1,390 direct beneficiaries (1,223 women and 168 men), mostly from rural areas entrepreneurs and agricultural producers and unemployed women and their family members had an opportunity to improve their knowledge and to develop new skills to advance their position for economic empowerment.

In order to better implement National Strat-

egy for Gender Equality and to strengthen the capacities of civil servants, the Coordination Body for Gender Equality supported a development of Guidelines for usage of gender sensitive language. The idea was to provide recommendation and guidelines for use and promotion of gender sensitive language for civil servants and larger audience.

UN Women Office in Serbia continued to support the Coordination Body for Gender Equality to engage in dialogue with key stakeholders, including academia and women’s organisations. As part of this support, the conference “United for knowledge” was organized by UN Women, the Coordination Body for Gender Equality, SeConS and the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade at the Rectorate of the University of Belgrade on 26 November. The aim of the conference was to initiate establishment of the platform for further deepening of national-level dialogue with policy-makers and decision-makers, to raise awareness of the general population about gender equality and to present economic and social status of women, both in academia and throughout whole society.

In the reporting period, UN Women organised the Annual Conference of Local Gender Equality Mechanisms on 12 December 2019. Like every year, the conference gathered national gender equality mechanism (GEM), gender focal points from line ministries and local GEMs and to exchange the

knowledge and experiences and share best practices in implementing gender equality at the local level. On this occasion, best local self-governments and gender equality mechanisms were awarded.

In 2019, with UN Women’s expert support, The Ministry for EU Integration continued to work on gender mainstreaming of the key national document that defines Serbia’s development priorities, measures and funds: The National Priorities for International Assistance in the Republic of Serbia, 2021-2025 (NAD). This included setting up a monitoring framework of the document and gender inputs for the passport of indicators.

The capacities for gender mainstreaming of IPA improved with the support of UN Women, by joint work in identifying, assessing and addressing the needs of men and women in the development and gender mainstreaming of five sector action documents (environment, disaster and risk reduction, human resource and social development, rule of law and home affairs, and competitiveness) for the IPA 2019-2020 planning cycle.

Furthermore, gender analyses of economic and financial measures in Serbia were developed with an aim to raise the visibility of the issues and advocate for change. Following the requirements related to Chapter 22 in EU Serbia negotiation process, UN Women supported MEI in the development of Guidebook for the implementation of ex-an-



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te conditionalities/enabling conditions for Cohesion policy related to gender equality and antidiscrimination.

UN Women initiated cooperation with 4 women's organizations to improve access of women to the labour market, and continued support to the economic empowerment of women through partnership with 8 women's civil society organizations, with the aim to encourage women's entrepreneurship and enhance the position of rural women. This benefited more than 600 women from 28 municipalities across Serbia who took part in business, ICT and occupational trainings and mentorship programs. Women learn the principles and initiated organic vegetable growing and processing and learned more about green economy and social entrepreneurship. As a result of provided support, women established two associations of rural women and one association of women with disabilities, while 9 women's associations were strengthened to develop initiatives in their local communities, leading to the improvement of a position of women and quality of daily life. In addition, members of 24 women's organizations improved their knowledge and skills to develop project proposals and increased their chances of gaining financial support from donor community.

GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING

UN Women continued to support the process of gender responsive budgeting (GRB) implementation and institutionalization, in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance, the Coordination Body for Gender Equality and the Provincial Secretariat of Finance. This resulted in inclusion of gender perspective in 2020 Budget of 66 budget users at national and provincial level, through 101 budget programmes, 242 objectives and 253 indicators. In a bid to further institutionalize GRB, UN Women and the Coordination Body for Gender Equality organized individual seminars for 5 ministries key for the improving the position of women, and supported identification of budget goals that would have transformational impact on gender equality. In addition, UN Women produced the first GRB impact report, based on the analysis of the execution of 2018 budget, which showed that the support of government at national and provincial level to women has been increased in areas such as culture, agriculture and ICT, among others.

GENDER RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE – REDISTRIBUTION OF UNPAID CARE WORK

In Serbia, gender inequality in unpaid care provision is still prevalent. Regardless of whether they are employed, women carry the burden of household chores and provide majority of care for children, sick and elderly in their families and are working 2.5 hour more per day than man on unpaid care work. Transformation of gender relations in parenting and economy of care is highly relevant in view of the fact that this is an area of very persistent gender inequalities which most strongly opposes changes, but its relevance and significance are still insufficiently recognized.

With this in mind UN Women, in close cooperation with the Coordination Body for Gender Equality of the Republic of Serbia, has initiated the Gender Responsive Governance – Redistribution of Unpaid Care work project. Funded by the United Kingdom's Good Governance Fund, the project aims to 1) increase visibility of unpaid care and domestic work as valuable for the society; 2) challenge the existing social norms that promote unequal sharing of care work between women and men, leaving women at a disadvantage; and 3) advocate and push for policies and investments needed to reduce and redistribute unpaid care work. The project duration is August 2019 – February 2021

Projects goals will be achieved through the implementation of two sets of activities. First will focus on facilitating a dialogue about the care economy within and among key stakeholders, namely the line ministries,

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WE DEMAND EQUAL PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS AND DECISION-MAKING

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local self-governments, women's organizations and general public, thus creating both awareness and deeper understanding of the problem at hand on all levels of society. This in turn is expected to prompt a change of the existing norms and policies shaping the economy of care. As well, a first Analysis on Monetary Value of Unpaid Care Work in Serbia is in preparation.

The second set of activities will focus on identifying and ensuring the implementation of pilot measures designed to help redistribute unpaid care work at the local level. This will consist of identifying specific problems in local communities, developing pilot initiatives that will address these problems, overseeing their implementation and ensuring their visibility, identifying successful practices, and advocating for their upscaling and budgeting. In December 2019, a first 4 innovative local pilot projects have been selected to be implemented as of Jan 2020 until Dec 2020. A second selection round for innovative civil society initiatives is currently ongoing.

GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

In May 2019, UN Women Europe and Central Asia launched the Ideas Campaign as part of its innovation facility activities. The Ideas Campaign invested resources towards building innovation capabilities among UN Women ECA staff by creating space for experimentation. After a competitive process, one of the ideas submitted by UN Women Serbia staff was among three selected for further funding and training support. UN Women Serbia implemented a behavioral change project "I Say NO to Single-Use Plastic", targeting specifically women and their capacity to induce changes in themselves, their households, and their immediate surroundings regarding the use of single-use plastic. In addition, as Belgrade cafés usually serve not one but two plastic straws per drink, the second target group of the pilot project were coffee-shop owners and through them the larger audience visiting the coffee shops. Through organizing focus groups and in-depth interviews with women and coffee shop owners, the project team gained insights into their behavioral drivers of change and ensured their views and inputs are considered within the future process of co-creation. After two co-creative workshops with the same group of dedicated women and a series of individual meetings with coffee shop owners, women and coffee shop owners signed the pledge and initiated the Challenge for not using one single-use plastic object/product for 7 days.

As a "safe space" for communication and support among participating women and a wider community interested in the Challenge, a closed Facebook group "I Say no to

Plastics" has been created and soon grown to more than 220 members. The results of the campaign in figures and facts show that:

- Most of the plastic waste collected in households comes from food packaging and wrapping (39%), beverages (27.5%) and plastic bags (17.8%);
- Women managed to reduce the consumption of disposable plastic by 20 to 80 percent during the challenge;
- 95% of women who participated in the challenge self-reported that their knowledge on negative effects of single-use plastics and environmentally friendly alternatives significantly increased;
- 3,600 coffee shop visitors were introduced with the Challenge during the 7 days;
- Percentage of reduction of the use of disposable plastic accessories by coffee shop during the challenge is approximately around 90% - e.g. weekly consumption of plastics straws decreased from average number of 3150 to 350 during the challenge.

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WE DEMAND JUSTICE AND PEACE FOR ALL

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WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

With an aim of supporting and helping women and girls with disabilities to achieve their rights, encourage and motivate them to improve their everyday life and to assist with career and professional development, UN Women organised the first Mentoring Programme for Women and Girls with Disabilities under the UN Joint Project ‘Autonomy, Voice and Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Serbia’. The issues/subjects dealt with in the mentoring process were: self-perception; independent moving and mobility; sexuality; partner relationship and motherhood; independent living; support by the family and friends; education; employment and financial situation; health; personal assistance; life in a residential institution, foster families, and supported living arrangements (small group homes); legal capacity; activism; stereotypes about women with disabilities and discrimination; wishes and hopes; fears and worries; social life and leisure time; hobbies; practical skills and emotional support. After mentoring sessions, majority of 10 selected mentees gave feedback that they achieved motivation to be more active in their personal and professional life, including decisions about their education, attending various forms of non-formal education, pro-activity in employment and activism.

In addition, UN Women organized training for representatives of women’s CSOs with the main objective to increase the capacities of representatives of women’s CSOs to promote the importance of political, economic, social and health rights of women and girls with disabilities. The training “Rights of wom-

en with disabilities – from life to policies” aimed at raising awareness among women’s rights activists about the position of women with disabilities in our society and ways to ensure access to the right to health, education, employment, political representation, partnerships, and motherhood. The training focused on challenges and barriers to equality of women/girls with disabilities, but also on solutions and ways how to advocate for the rights of women with disabilities.

Representative of 12 civil society organizations (women’s organizations) from nine cities in Serbia participated, and training evaluation showed high satisfaction of participants and perspectives on the usefulness of the training, which show the importance of the training for representatives of women’s rights organizations. The most important responses to the readiness of the training participants to advocate for the rights of women with disabilities, which was one of the training objectives, was achieved.

**WE DEMAND
FREEDOM FROM
VIOLENCE AND
DISCRIMINATION**

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**WE DEMAND
ACCESS TO SEXUAL
AND REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTH AND RIGHTS**

We are #GenerationEquality





SERBIA MAKES BOLD COMMITMENT IN NAIROBI

The **Nairobi Summit** on ICPD25 held from 12-14 November 2019 in the Kenyan capital, ended with partners making bold commitments to transform the world by ending all maternal deaths, unmet need for family planning and gender-based violence and harmful practices against women and girls by 2030. Summit took place 25 years since the revolutionary International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo and 50 years since Fund began its operations in 1969.

The Summit, co-convened by the governments of Kenya and Denmark with UNFPA, the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency, unveiled critical new data about the cost of achieving these goals. It gathered over 8,300 delegates from over 170 countries and mobilized more than 1,200 commitments from around the world, including billions of dollars in pledges from public and private sector partners. It also raised the voices of marginalized communities, youth and grassroots advocates, who were able to directly engage heads of state and policymakers about how to realize the rights and health of all people.

Delegation from Serbia headed by the Minister without Portfolio in charge of Demography and Population Policy, Prof. dr Slavica Djukic Dejanovic presented commitments that Serbia will take in the next decade to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights. Most notably for the implementation of the National Program for Safeguarding and Improving Sexual and Reproductive Health of the Citizens of the Republic of Serbia, National Youth Strategy and Birth Promotion Strategy.

In addition to Minister Djukic Dejanovic Serbian delegation was also attended by MP Elvira Kovac, prof. Mirjana Rasevic, Director of the Center for Demographic Research, as well as representatives of the Regional Office for Youth Cooperation RYCO, NGOs Atina, Organization for Support of Women with Disabilities ... OUT OF CIRCLE - VOJVODINA, Association of Coordinators for Roma Issues ACRI and Association for Sexual and Reproductive Health of Serbia. Members of the Delegation of the Republic of Serbia contributed to the work of the Summit by actively participating in panels and presentations at various Summit sessions on how to advance participation of girls and women in decision-making processes, how ICPD Programme of Actions can improve the status of women with disabilities and guarantee the protection and full enjoyment of their rights, the role of young people in creating and maintaining peace, the full inclusion of marginalized groups, responding to demographic changes in our region and the role of parliament in securing the right and choices for all.

On 16 December in Belgrade, UNFPA organized **national follow up consultations** to brief national partners about outcomes of Nairobi Summit. The event served as an opportunity to jointly brainstorm about further steps to fully implement ICPD promise in Serbia.

WOMEN WITH DISABILITY

UNFPA supported Organization for Support of Women with Disabilities ... OUT OF CIRCLE - VOJVODINA to develop capacities of women with

disabilities in municipality Novi Kneževac for engaging in **activism and for advocating for their sexual and reproductive rights at the local level**. In cooperation with the activists of the association from Novi Knezevac, EIZ KRUGA Vojvodina conducted the survey to document attitudes of citizens of Novi Kneževac about status of women with disabilities especially in the area of sexual and reproductive rights. The research findings were used for training purposes and realization of advocacy activities and public event. The two-day training was organized for July 2019. First advocacy activity titled "Health facilities and services accessible and available to all" addressed the problem of (in)accessibility of the Novi Kneževac Health Center and (in)availability of health services the Women's Health Department of the Health Center Novi Kneževac. The following public event in the form of a joint meeting with decision-makers, heads of public institutions and private companies was held on September 27, addressed the issue of gynecological examination of women with disabilities. The participants publicly expressed their willingness to donate and to participate in the fundraising for the purchase of a gynecological table.

YOUTH

In order to increase involvement of young people and raise awareness of high school students about gender equality, UNFPA together with Belgrade Running Club BRC organized a relay race in couples titled **Run2Equality**. The race took place on 28

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We must send a message across the world that there is no disgrace in being a survivor of sexual violence – the shame is on the aggressor.

- Angelina Jolie
UNHCR Special Envoy



I want to be the last girl in the world with a story like mine.

- Nadia Murad
UNODC Goodwill Ambassador
2018 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate



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September in Belgrade and was additionally supported by the Olympic Committee of the Republic of Serbia and EU as part of the series of events marking the European Week of Sports. In addition to the race, UNFPA CO organized a quiz on gender equality issues and SRH topics. The race reached 500 people.

EMERGENCIES

As part of humanitarian response, as the situation has changed and migrants are staying longer in the country there was a need to **align GBViE SOP with all relevant new laws and strategic documents**. UNFPA supported Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs to align the document and update Annexes of Standard Operation Procedures of the Republic of Serbia for Prevention and Protection of Refugees and Migrants from Gender Based Violence. UNFPA facilitated two field-level consultations to review and align document in accordance to the current situation and newly enforced Laws that gathered 60 representatives of national institutions, international organizations and CSOs.

In addition to revising the document, UNFPA CO supported MOLVESA to strengthen capacities of service providers by delivering **2 interactive trainings**. The objective of this 2 interactive trainings was to introduce/re-fresh health care workers, social workers, protection, police, prosecutors, site managers and other responders' knowledge and skills about the legislatives and active Laws and procedures, the GBV core concept, com-

mon signs and symptoms of GBV among different vulnerable groups, reflecting on some of the general risk categories and risk indicators, roles and responsibilities of service providers and GBV referral pathways. The workshops took place in Belgrade and Nis (south of Serbia) on 16th and 23rd of September 2019 with 46 participants from 6 different institutions.

UNFPA CO Serbia supported two civil society organizations - Info Park and Psychological Innovation Network to provide services in Belgrade and Pirot designed **specifically for young men and boys**. In total, 40 workshops have been organized with 153 participants aged between 9 and 26 years old, from Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Yemen, Tunisia, Somalia, Iraq, Sudan and Pakistan. Info Park, through its mobile team provided 224 beneficiaries with information on their rights, safety risks, available services and social protection pathways, registration, accommodation and asylum procedures.

UNFPA continued long-lasting partnership with IP Danish Refugee Council and Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia (SCRM) in the following 13 Asylum/Reception Centers: Pirot, Sombor, Subotica, Bosilegrad, Bogovadja, Banja Koviljaca, Vranje, Krnjaca, Adasevci, Sjenica, Kikinda, Tutin and Sid. **In total 520 refugee/migrant women and girls were supported with the total of 6.248 dignity/hygiene items**. Additionally UNFPA supported six focus group discussions with 110 female participants asylum seekers, refugees and migrant women that are accommodated at six transit/reception/asylum centres. Asylum Center (AC) Banja Koviljaca, AC Bogovad-

ja, AC Krnjaca, Reception Center (RC) Vranje, Transit Center (TC) Sid, and TC Sombor, during the August 2019. The focus group discussion was aiming at a better understanding of female perspective on reproductive health as a part of the humanitarian response, availability and accessibility of the relevant services.

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When you force a girl to marry, you've given a man a right to rape her every single day.

- Jaha Dukureh
UN Women Regional Goodwill
Ambassador for Africa

@unwomen



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These aren't isolated incidents; there's a **culture** that supports this. **If we are not actively trying to dismantle these systems, we are complicit.** Our silence is complicit. Our bewilderment is complicit.

- Gabrielle Union
American actress and activist

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UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS TEAM

DEPATHOLOGIZATION OF
TRANS* IDENTITIES

Regarding the adopted revised International Classification of Diseases (ICD 11), UN Human Rights Team in Serbia, jointly with UNFPA and WHO in Serbia, continued its facilitation over a national preparation for the implementation of depathologization of trans* identities in Serbia, through a set of briefings and consultations between all relevant State authorities and CSO organizations working in the field of LGBTI rights in Serbia. Namely, the ICD 11 removes trans* identities from the list of mental health diseases and Member States have to adopt measures and change necessary legislation in order to fully comply with those revisions as set in the adopted document, as the reporting regarding the implementation will begin in 2022. Apart from that, UN Human Rights Team supported the organization of the event “Living libraries” aimed at raising visibility of trans* people in Serbia, as well as aimed at raising awareness regarding often violations of their basic human rights. Discrimination of trans* people in the Republic of Serbia remains high, even with the adoption of the amendments to the Law on birth registers and accompanying Rulebook which allows for the sex change in personal documents. Necessary medicines, such as adequate hormone therapy, is not available in the Republic of Serbia for all trans* people, legal framework still has several gaps leaving legal uncertainty when it comes to the sex change, as regard to the family rights, right to health, etc.

MEASURING HUMAN RIGHTS
IMPLEMENTATION IN SERBIA

UN Human Rights Team in Serbia continued to support the Platform of CSOs for Interaction with the UN Human Rights Mechanisms in their interactive process of producing human rights indicators for monitoring the recommendations stemming from various UN Human Rights Mechanisms in the area of gender equality and women's rights, including UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Created indicators jointly with roadmaps guiding the national implementation of recommendations received, will be used to measure the State's progress in human rights implementation and will be presented to the Government as expert and policy support from the civil society, in particular to the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-Up.

SWISS PRO SUPPORT
TO ENHANCEMENT
OF GENDER EQUALITY
AT LOCAL LEVEL

The Swiss PRO Programme will provide technical assistance (TA) for capacity development and improvement of local gender equality policy framework in 311 local self-governments (LSGs) in Sumadija and Western Serbia and Southern and Eastern Serbia. Through technical support the local partners will receive trainings, on-the-job mentoring, expert assistance for revision and development of local gender equality (GE) actions plans and other local acts, as well as facilitation of adoption of the European Charter for Equality of Men and Women in Local Life.

The comprehensive TA will begin with joint training in February 2020, and during the autumn it will encompass also establishment and capacity development of Local Women Councilors Network (LWCN), and opening of competitive call for small grants for local GEMs to pilot implementation of priority actions from local action plans.

The TA is implemented in cooperation with the Center for Social Policy (CSP). During the Inception Phase the LSGs confirmed their commitment, but also expressed the need for local initiatives to target and reach women in their communities.





Since 2009, UNDP SEESAC has been supporting national authorities in South East Europe (SEE) in their efforts to increase the participation of women and advance gender equality in the security sector reform through regional platforms.

INCREASING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND SERBIAN ARMED FORCES

In Serbia, SEESAC supported small-scale projects developed by the Ministry of Defence of Serbia (MoD), with the aim of increasing gender equality in the MoD and Serbian Armed Forces (SAF). This was done during 2019 within the *Strengthening of Regional Cooperation on Gender Mainstreaming in Security Sector Reform in the Western Balkans* project, funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

These projects supported capacity development of: i) **the Analytical Group** in charge of monitoring the implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) for UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in Serbia and ii) **the internal complaint mechanism (Persons of Trusts)** to effectively address gender-based discrimination in the military.

Representatives of the MoD and members of SAF actively participated in regular information sharing and knowledge exchange on gender equality through the Western Balkan regional platform of gender equality mechanisms and decision makers that

meet twice a year. In 2019, the MoDs¹ agreed to develop the **regional Manual on combating gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment and abuse** to strengthen the capacities of the MoDs and AFs to effectively respond to discrimination and abuse. Two representatives of the MoD and SAF took part in the **1st regional meeting of the Working Group** in charge of developing the Manual. The Manual represents the first knowledge tool of this kind in the region, and its completion is planned for the second half of 2020.

The MoD is taking an active part in the development of the methodology and questionnaire for the second regional study on the Position of Women in the Armed Forces in the Western Balkans. The **first regional study**, conducted by the MoDs with SEESAC's technical support, enabled collection of regionally comparable data on the position of women in the AFs, to: (i) better inform human resources policy reforms and thus (ii) attract a greater number of qualified female candidates to the military profession and (iii) ensure that those who join are given equal career development prospects. The second study will provide comparison of data on the position and status of women, and review the progress in achieving gender equality in the AFs in the Western Balkans, while at the same time identifying the main challenges and gaps left unresolved.

Gender Military Trainers from the MoD and SAF took part in the fourth regional meeting of gender trainers. The meeting participants discussed the challenges in delivering train-

ing to different target audiences and shared good practices. The meeting enabled the development of training materials and included discussion on the gender perspective in the small arms and light weapons (SALW) control, as well as the impact on gun violence on women and men.

Background

The MoDs in the Western Balkans, supported by UNDP SEESAC, embarked on the long-term mission to make gender equality the core need of security institutions. Building upon the successful implementation of Phase I (2012-2016), UNDP SEESAC and the MoDs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia - to consolidating and ensuring the sustainability of results achieved during Phase I - began the implementation of **Phase II (2019-2021) of the Strengthening of Regional Cooperation on Gender Mainstreaming in Security Sector Reform in the Western Balkans project**, funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In 2016, SEESAC released the "**Gender and SALW in South East Europe**" study, an accompanying **practical toolkit**, a handbook, as well as an **infographic**. Developed with the support of the European Union², the study documents the gender differentiation of specific risks that women and men face with respect to small arms and light weapons in SEE.

BELIEVE WOMEN



Don't be a bystander



¹ MoDs and AFs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia

² COUNCIL DECISION 2013/730/CFSP



BETTER INSIGHTS INTO LINKAGES BETWEEN GENDER AND SMALL ARMS IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE

SEESAC launched a series of Gender and Small Arms: Fast Facts addressing different gendered aspects of small arms.

Gender and Small Arms: Fast Facts

The [Gender and Small Arms: Fast Facts series](#) document the multiple linkages between gender and small arms in SEE, shed light on the highly gendered nature of small arms and outline the specific risks that women and men face with respect to firearm use and misuse.

Fast Facts provide an extensive overview of sex-disaggregated data related to ownership, access, demand for firearms and their impact on women and men. The data was collected for the period 2012-2016. Through improved access to sex-disaggregated data, Fast Facts strive to increase knowledge and awareness of both professionals and the general audience of the highly gendered aspects of small arms. In addition, they provide policymakers in SEE with an easy-to-use tool for evidence-based policymaking and mainstreaming gender in SALW control legislation and policies.

Fast Facts have been developed for each jurisdiction in SEE in cooperation with the Small Arms and Light Weapons Commissions. Data was extracted from diverse sources such as the SALW Survey and the Armed Violence Monitoring Platform and spans from 2012 to 2018.

Highlights:

- 97.2% of all legally owned firearms are owned by men, while only 2.8% was owned by women;
- Between 2012 and 2016, men acquired 97% of all licenses, compared to 3% women;
- Men dominate professions with access to firearms such as police, armed forces or private security companies;
- The misuse of firearms is heavily gendered - men account for 98.4% of perpetrators of firearm-related criminal offences, and 98% of firearm-related homicides, while women misuse firearms in exceptional cases;
- Men also make up the majority of victims of firearm-related homicides (83.8%) but are proportionately more frequently perpetrators than victims of firearms misuse. Women, on the other hand, own only a minor share of firearms (2.9%), make up 1.6% of perpetrators of firearm-related criminal offences but are disproportionately represented among homicide victims -16.2%;
- Men significantly more often than women said they own a gun (35% and 19% respectively).

Serbia - Highlights:

- Men own 94.7% of all firearms, while 5.3% of firearms are owned by women;
- 37.6% of men and 19% of women surveyed in 2017 would own a gun;
- 60.2% of women and 45.2% of men feel that a gun at home makes them less safe;

- 42.2% of men and 14.7% of women have had some form of direct personal experience with a gun – either used a gun, had a gun directed at them, or both;
- Men account for 78.8% and women for 21.2% of all firearm-related homicide victims;
- Men committed 96.6% of all firearm-related criminal offenses, while only 3.4% were committed by women.

The Misuse of Firearms in Domestic Violence in South East Europe: Fast Facts

The [Misuse of Firearms in Domestic Violence in South East Europe: Fast Facts](#) provides an overview of data on firearm-related homicide committed by family members and intimate partners, the characteristics of the firearm-related incidents committed within the domestic context, women's and men's perception of safety with the presence of firearms at home, as well as the institutional response to the misuse of firearms in domestic violence.

In doing so, Fast Facts document the risks linked to firearm misuse in the domestic context and its disproportionate effects on women, particularly in the context of intimate partner violence.

Highlights:

- Homicide committed by a family member is the most common form of femicide in SEE. 61% of all killed women were killed by a family member, compared to 12.4% of all killed men;
- 43.5% of all women killed by their intimate partner in SEE were killed with firearms;

end rape culture

FIGHT LIKE A MAN



- 68.9% of women killed with firearms were killed in their homes, apartments or yards
- 37.4% of reported domestic violence incidents which involved firearms had a lethal outcome;
- Only 8.5% of rejected applicants for new licenses were rejected on the grounds of domestic violence;
- Only 2.3% of all revoked firearms/ fire-arm licenses were revoked due to domestic violence;
- The misuse of firearms was reported in only 0.3% of registered criminal offenses of domestic violence.

Serbia - Highlights:

- Women accounted for the overwhelming majority of persons killed by their intimate partner - 88.1%, compared to 11.9% of men;
- 39.4% of women killed by an intimate partner were killed with firearms;
- 51.9% of incidents of domestic violence that involved firearms resulted in a lethal outcome;
- 61.1% of women and 32.8% of men killed with firearms were killed in their homes, apartments or yards.

MEN AND FIREARMS IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE: FAST FACTS

In SEE, as elsewhere, the overwhelming majority of firearms are owned by men. Men also predominantly use and misuse firearms and account for the majority of victims of firearm misuse. While these patterns are highly stable and remarkably similar across the region, the necessity to address these issues has only recently been recognized in SALW control legislative and policy frameworks in SEE.

To be effective, this changing policy landscape requires thorough understanding of the linkages between men and firearms and the role that masculine norms play in shaping both the demand for firearms and the risk-taking behavior in the wider social context, including access to and availability of firearms.

The Men and Firearms in South East Europe: Fast Facts provides a broad overview of the available data on firearm ownership, access to firearms across security sector institutions, men's experience and attitudes towards firearms, and men as perpetrators and victims of firearm misuse. It also maps factors which could influence the demand for firearms among men. In doing so, Fast Facts aim to contribute to the ongoing discussions on the social conditioning of these patterns and increase the knowledge and awareness of both professionals and the general audience of the specific linkages between men and firearms in SEE. The data was collected for the period 2012-2016.





GENDER & CLIMATE CHANGE

Consequences of climate change affect women and men in different ways. Women should be part of the solutions to climate change and are increasingly being involved in the development and implementation of national climate policies as agents of change. UNDP strongly believes that addressing gender gaps and supporting the empowerment of women provide an excellent opportunity to help achieve environmental benefits.

UNDP pointed out different implications of climate change on men and women and together with the EU Delegation in Serbia, in the [Joint message for the Government of Serbia on climate change](#), expressed its commitment to gender-sensitive planning in Serbia. The goal is to mitigate the impact of climate change, on the economy and the society, in particular on its most vulnerable population, through integrated water management, improved agricultural practices, human health considerations and increased knowledge and planning at the local level. Knowledge and experience from men and women from local communities represent an important resource that could be used in climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster reduction, making them effective actors and agents of change.

Within two GEF-funded projects “Support Serbia’s UNFCCC Reporting” and “Establishing Transparency Framework for the Republic of Serbia” initial gender-specific activities during the establishment of transparency framework for Serbia started, including initial Gender Analysis and draft Gender Action Plan. Moreover, gender sensitive data and

indicators with recommendations on gender-differentiated impacts and vulnerability of key sectors were prepared, which will serve for further gender mainstreaming into climate change field in the forthcoming period.

Stakeholder consultations were organized in November 2019 to discuss follow up actions, including inputs for capacity-building, knowledge sharing and communication related to gender and climate change.

A short video [Changing climate, changing tides](#) on fisherwoman was launched in September 2019 within the “Who I am? - UNDP Voyages” campaign. The video, widely promoted in the region through social media, shows the impact of climate change on livelihood of a woman whose sole income comes from fishing and sales of her catch.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK

1. POLICY DIALOGUE. UNDP and Swiss Government *Project Strengthening the Oversight Function and Transparency of the Parliament – 2nd Phase*, together with the “*Integrated Response to Violence against Women and Girls in Serbia*” project, jointly organized two workshops for the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia (NARS) Women’s Parliamentary Network (WPN) in cooperation with OSCE and International Parliamentary Union (IPU). The goal was to recommence the cross-party policy dialogue within the WPN and agree around the common topics. IPU presented their research findings on sex-

ism, harassment and violence against women in parliament, their prevalence, the form they take and ways to address them and explored the additional steps that could be taken to make parliament a gender-sensitive institution. As a result the WPN organized a conference for local women MPs, focusing on the topic of political violence against women MPs and seeking measures to improve the status of women MPs at the local level.

2. WOMEN’S PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK CONFERENCE FOR LOCAL WOMEN MPs “Not in My Parliament – The 7th National Conference of Women’s Parliamentary Network

The 7th National Conference of Women’s Parliamentary Network, entitled “Not in My Parliament”, was held at the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, on December 14th 2019 – with the support of the Government of Switzerland, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the OSCE Mission to Serbia. Apart from female representatives of the people, the conference was attended by around 400 female local assembly members from Serbia. This year’s conference focused on a dialogue about sexism, persecution, discrimination and verbal aggression against women, and the debate also focused on the activities of local governments when it comes to implementing the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and also on the Global Strategic Plan 2018-2021, which is connected to the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5, pertaining to achieving gender equality.



So many years past being **raped**, I tell myself what happened is 'in the past.' This is only **partly true**. In too many ways, **the past is still with me**. The past is **written on my body**. I carry it **every single day**.

- Roxane Gay
Quote from her memoir *Hunger*

@unwomen



To the victims...
I see you.
I believe you...
and **I'm listening**.

- Viola Davis
American actress and producer

@unwomen



The President of the National Assembly Maja Gojković stated that the National Assembly of Serbia has 94 female representatives of the people, that women performed many managerial functions at the national level, but that women were not sufficiently represented at the regional and the local level to be able to influence the creation of the policies of the communities they lived in.

Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia Andrea Orizio pointed out that the essential characteristic of WPN was the fact that it was a multi-party effort, which provided a good example of successfully overcoming political divisions.

“Equal representation of women at all the levels of decision-making and promotion of the participation of women in political life is a very important for the Swiss Government. The participation of women and equality influence the policies that are created, as well as the solutions that are proposed.”, said Sasha Miller of the Swiss Office for Cooperation, noting that there was progress being made in the area of gender equality in Serbia, but that women were still exposed to violence and unfavourable treatment when applying for a job, and also to other forms of discrimination. She emphasised that the Government of Switzerland firmly believed that the work of WPN was relevant for promoting gender rights at the national and the local level.

“Owing to the work of WPNetwork, Serbia has ratified the Istanbul Convention and held a number of public debates which resulted in changing laws for the purpose of better protection of women and girls, as well as introducing stricter measures against perpetrators of violence in the family. I hope that

this conference will stimulate legislative reforms aimed at preventing sexism and hate speech against women in politics.”, pointed UNDP programme analyst Željka Topalović. She highlighted that gender equality was not merely a right, but also a necessary precondition for sustainable development. She also stressed that gender equality was not solely a problem of parliamentarians, but also of citizens, the media and the state.

Women’s Parliamentary Network was founded on 14th February 2013 by female members of the National Assembly of Serbia. Following in the footsteps of similar institutions in developed countries of Europe and the world, for the first time in the history of Serbian parliamentarism, female representatives of the people gathered within the framework of an initiative, regardless of which political party they were members of. One of the priorities that Women’s Parliamentary Network continually works on is the affirmation of gender equality at all the levels of decision-making.

3. SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOLKIT FOR GENDER SENSITIVE PARLIAMENTS. UNDP and Swiss Government “*Strengthening the Oversight Function and Transparency of the Parliament – 2nd Phase*” project, in cooperation with the Interparliamentary Union (IPU) organized the first testing of the IPU’s Self-Assessment Toolkit for Gender Sensitive Parliaments. IPU produced toolkits help parliaments evaluate their performance against these standards: to be democratic and adhere to core democratic values and universal principles - to be representative, open and transparent,

accessible, accountable and effective—and commit to gender equality, political tolerance and the use of peaceful means to find solutions to the challenges facing society. These toolkits include ways for them to evaluate their performance as to ensuring democratic and gender-sensitive parliaments, and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Parliaments themselves own the process of self-assessment. They are not expected to report the results back to us, but can make them public if they wish. The findings are not used to rank parliaments, and there are no international experts sitting in judgement. Self-assessment works best when parliaments—and particularly their highest authorities—are convinced that the process can help to strengthen their institution.

The areas covered were:

1. The presence of women in Parliament and the positions they occupy;
2. The national legal framework and internal parliamentary policies on gender equality;
3. Gender infrastructure and gender mainstreaming in parliament;
4. The parliamentary culture and partnerships for gender equality: the role of men and political parties;
5. Parliamentary staff: gender balance and gender sensitivity.

As a conclusion a plan of action may be developed by the National Assembly based on the above recommendations. IPU and UNDP will be providing support in developing the plan of action and ensuring its implementation.

The self-assessment is built into the new

UNDP/Swiss government Project “Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy and Inclusive Political Dialogue” to provide demand-driven support for the WPN.

4. PUBLICATIONS - A publication “Preventing Violence against Women in Elections”, jointly prepared by UNDP and UN Women, has been translated into Serbian and is now available at the UNDP’s website [here](#). Women face multiple challenges when participate in political life and many of them are exposed to different forms of violence, such as verbal violence, sexual harassment and physical violence, accompanied by biased media reporting, public humiliation and forced resignations. Despite significant increase of women’s participation in elections as candidates, this remains to be the highest barrier which prevents them to exercise their political rights.



JOINT PROJECT INTEGRATED RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SERBIA II

Joint Project Integrated Response to Violence against Women and Girls in Serbia II has entered the final phase of the implementation. The proposal of the activities to be implemented in the next phase has been prepared and submitted to Sida. Activities covering the period of June-December 2019 include:

FIRST NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION

A group of experts responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) – GREVIO, prepared the first draft evaluation report on Serbia. The report assesses the level of compliance of Serbian legislation and practice in all areas covered by the Istanbul Convention. The report was prepared on the basis of all information collected through the National Report, shadow reports, country visits and meetings with relevant stakeholders. Based on the assessment, the report proposes measures to strengthen the implementation of the Convention. The process of Serbia’s participation in this intensive evaluation process has been supported within the Joint Project. All the information related to the Serbia’s progress and

challenges in the implementation of the Istanbul Convention are available at <https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/serbia>.

LAW ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Improvement in the implementation of the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence has been recorded in 2019. From June to October 2019, a total of 8,342 individual plans for protection of victims have been developed, which is an increase of 121% in comparison with the same period in 2017. The number of reported cases of domestic violence recorded during the second year of implementation of the Law also increased (47,583 cases in 2018/2019 compared to 44,886 cases in 2017/2018). Since the Law became effective, barring orders were extended by the court in 41,397 cases. Monthly data on victims and perpetrators are made available by the Joint Project at www.iskljucinasilje.rs on a monthly basis.

Multi agency groups for coordination and cooperation and professionals implementing the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence were supported through trainings, hands-on learning and knowledge products to enable professional, effective and efficient support to victims within the Joint Project. This support has been provided in the sec-

ond half of 2019 to professionals from prosecution county of Vranje, Vladicin Han and Pirot. The manual for the professionals processing the cases of domestic violence in multi-agency groups has been published and is available at <https://www.rs.undp.org/content/serbia/en/home/library/smer-nice-za-medijsko-izvetavanje-o-nasilju-prema-enama.html>.

24 perpetrators of violence were included in newly developed programs aimed at changing their beliefs and behavior; 29 women, their victims, were supported and empowered by women victims support organizations.

MEDIA REPORTING ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

70% of media reports contained the elements of non-ethical reporting on violence against women. 50% discovered the identity of the victim or her family; 46% reporting was sensationalistic. These are some of the findings within the Analysis on Media Reporting which was conducted by the Group Journalists against Violence. The Analysis covered the period from January to June 2019.

To respond to this unethical practice, Guidelines on Media Reporting on Violence against Women has been published. The Guidance is the result of several months’ analyses and discussions of the group

За годину дана од када Министарство правде анализира податке о својству учиниоца и жртве према којима су продужене хитне мере према Закону о спречавању насиља у породици и то од новембра 2018. године до октобра 2019. године укупно је било

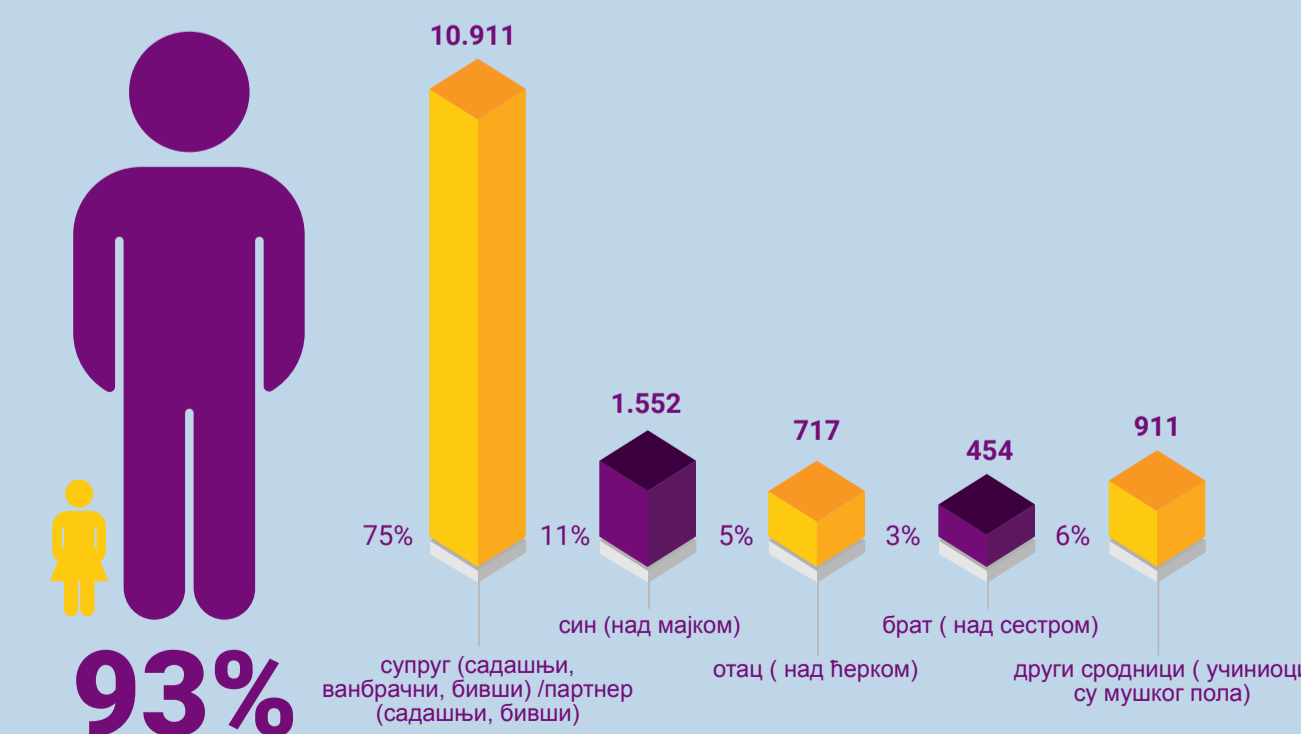
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ЖРТАВА

Од укупног броја жртава у 15.716 (74%) случајева жртве су биле женског пола, а у 5.467 (26%) жртве су биле мушког пола.



Од укупног броја жртава женског пола (15.716) њих 14.545 (93%) је било жртва од стране учиниоца мушког пола и то:





Journalists against Violence against Women, composed of thirty journalists from the national and local media, which was formed thanks to UNDP Serbia and the B92 Fund. The guidelines have been written so as to be useful to all media: print, electronic and digital. They address all journalists' dilemmas that can be anticipated when it comes to reporting on domestic violence, violence against women and children, intimate partner violence, as well as the specific features of violence against particular groups of women, such as minors, Roma women, women with disabilities, etc.

The guidelines aim to cover all aspects of journalistic work, from conduct during field work and treatment of victims of violence, direct and indirect witnesses, the choice of interlocutors, identification of adequate institutions to approach, and choice of precise wording to be used in drafting texts and headlines.

All guidelines have been designed carefully in order to be consistent with the Serbian Journalists' Code of Ethics, which served as the basis for their development.

The guidelines are aimed, on the one hand, at improving the quality of reporting on this topic, addressing the dilemmas often faced by journalists who report on this problem, and on the other, at avoiding or at least reducing the traumatization of women with experience of violence, resulting from public exposure. The Guidelines are available at <https://www.rs.undp.org/content/serbia/en/home/library/smernice-za-medijsko-izvetavanje-o-nasilju-prema-enama.html>.

COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF VOJVODINA

13 complex cases of domestic violence which occurred in 11 municipalities in Vojvodina have been processed using the case conference methodology. This method enabled professionals from centers for social work, representatives of the prosecutor's office, the judiciary, the police and medical institutions to obtain the skills in planning and organizing the protection of victims of domestic violence and to monitor effectiveness of measures taken and revise them if necessary. This method also involves the victims in planning their own protection taking into account their capacities and resources.

Field research was conducted in 10 targeted municipalities in AP Vojvodina to assess influence of the organized trainings and case conferences on service providers. Results of the research show that trainings influenced at increasing knowledge and awareness of multiple discrimination against women victims of violence from marginalized group, participants recognize better specific position of women from marginalized groups and victims of specific forms of violence as well as role and responsibilities of all institutions and mechanisms of protection and support. More than half of the respondents (57.1%) think that case conference can contribute to the quality of life of the victim, and 78.6% of respondents think that the case conferences are not used enough. Compared to the other ways of inter-sectoral cooperation in working with the victims of violence; professionals say case conference stands out because of the follow-

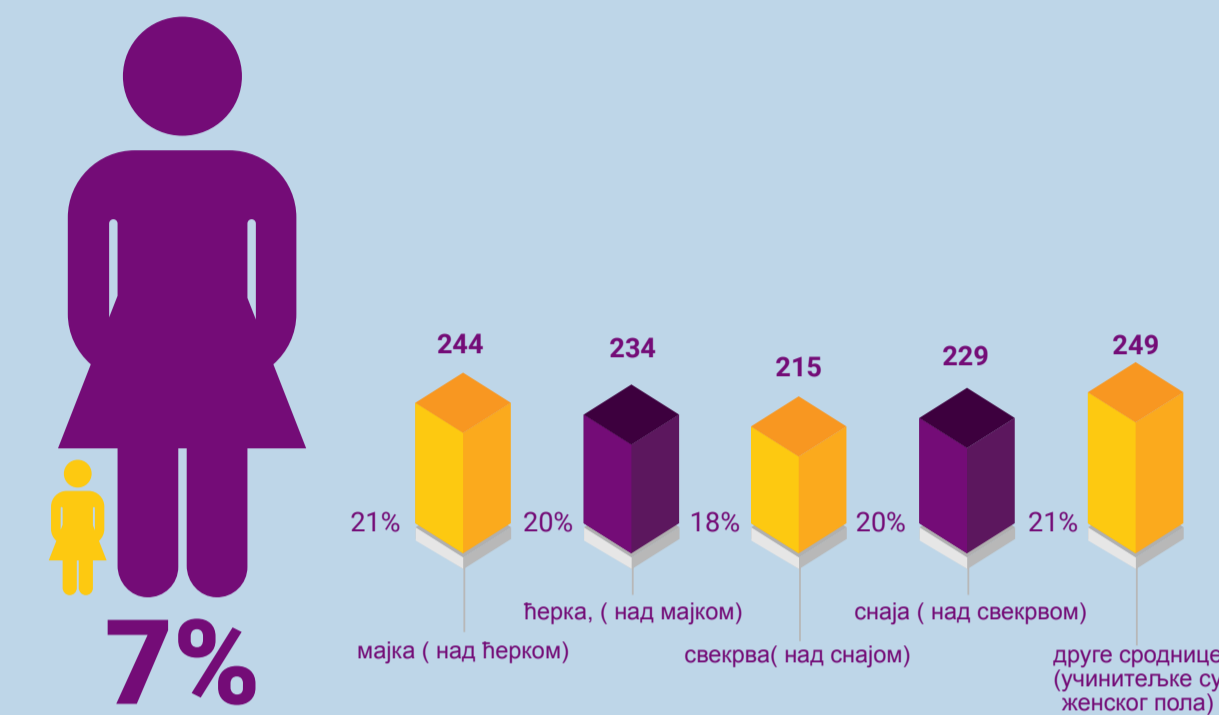
ing: participation of the beneficiaries; making the decision together, the victim gets to know representatives of the institutions and gives consent; the victim is more trusted by the presence of representatives of many institutions at conference case than when individual meetings are organized in institutions etc.

17 professionals from relevant institutions dealing with domestic violence have been introduced with the wide range of different practices and services implemented in Austria.

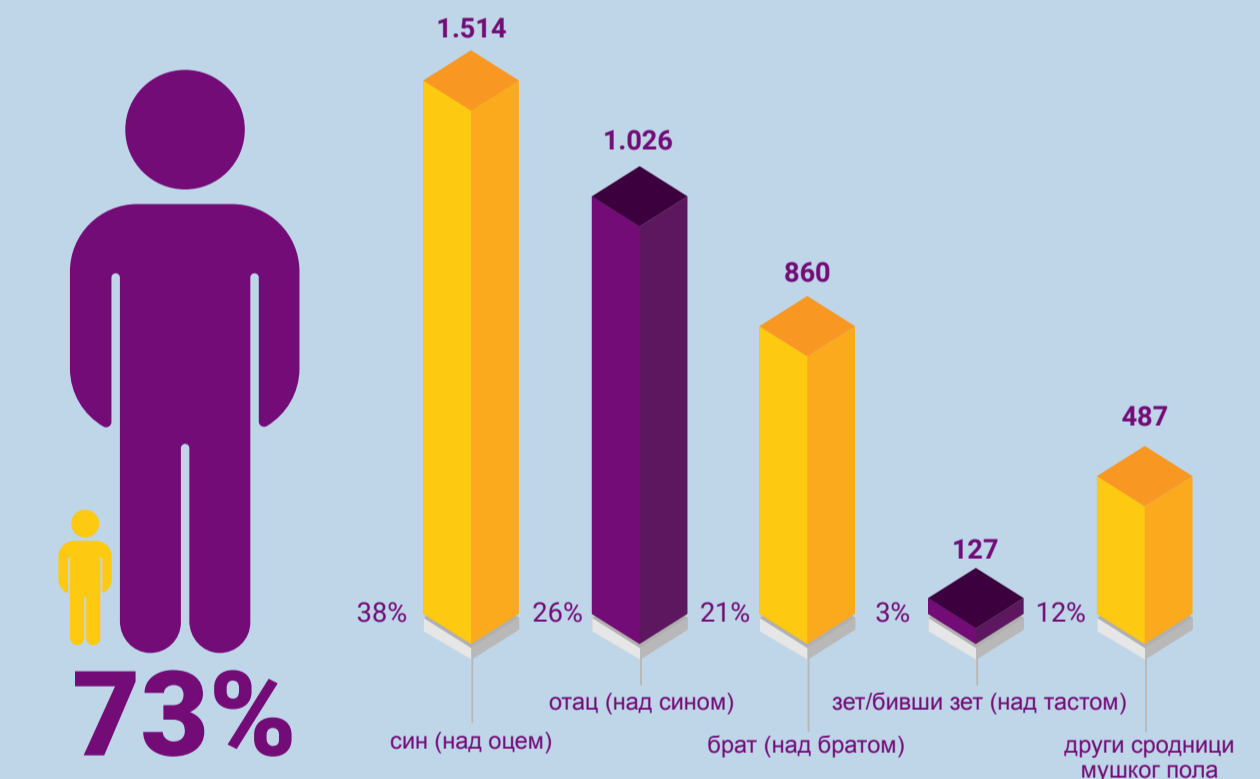
The Provincial Secretariat for Social Policy, Demography and Gender Equality held a public presentation during the campaign 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence to present the findings from the field research on the exchange of experiences and learning between municipal, provincial and national level stakeholders on innovative practices in combating violence against women.

Women from smaller communities are in discriminatory position compared to the one living in urban areas, when it comes to reporting and prosecuting the cases of violence in partner relationship. Access to justice is not equal for all and implementation of the provisions regarding protection, support and prevention of violence against women is not equal at all levels and in all regions. Women from marginalized and groups discriminated on multiple grounds are particularly vulnerable if they live in rural area. This information has been obtained during the informational campaign and meetings held with the local CSOs and women's associations in 10 municipalities. The aim of the campaign was to raise awareness on the services and practices in combating violence against women.

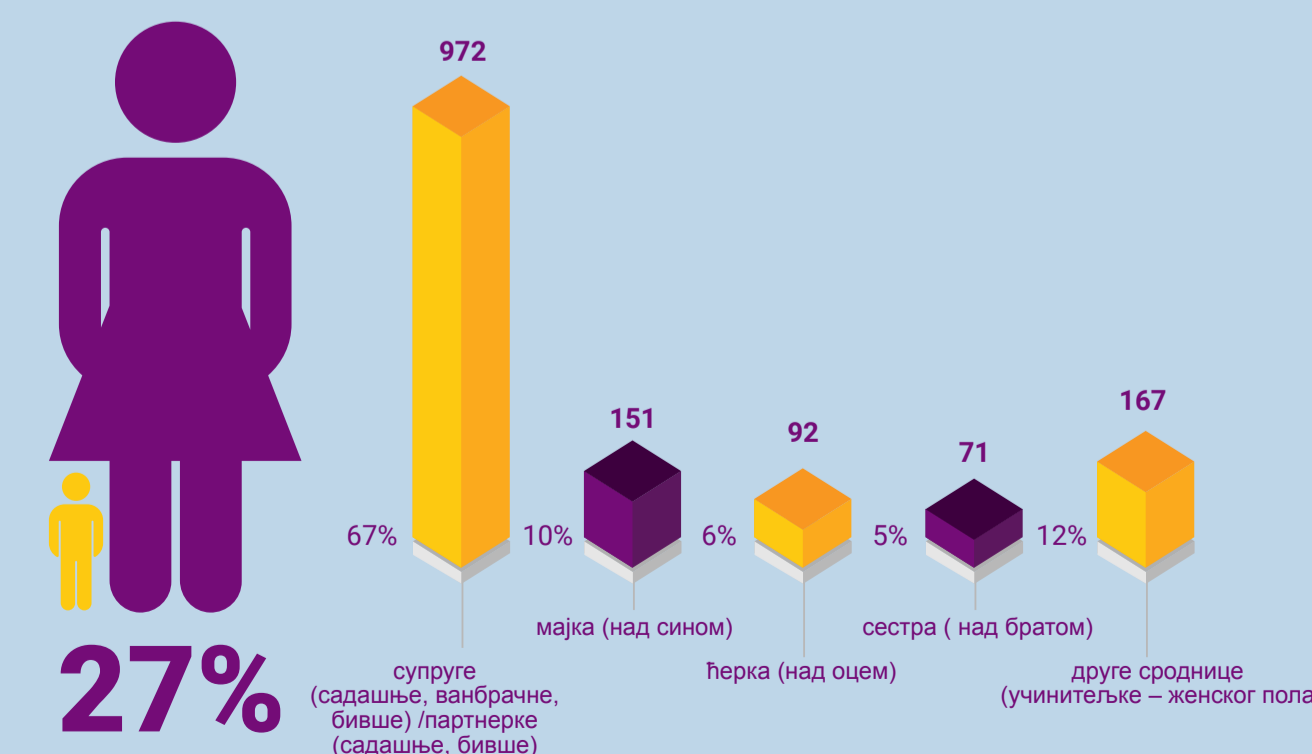
Преосталих 1.171 (7%) жртва женског пола биле су зlostављане од стране учинилаца који су такође женског пола и то:



Од новембра 2018. до краја октобра 2019. године укупан број жртва мушког пола је 5.467, њих 4.014 (73%) је било жртва од стране учиниоца мушког пола и то:



Преосталих 1.453 (27%) жртва мушког пола били су зlostављани од стране учиниоца женског пола и то:





HEALTH-CARE PROTECTION OF THE VICTIMS

Within the broader context of national efforts to upgrade overall prevention and response to gender-based violence, UNICEF has worked towards strengthening the health care system capacities to respond to GBV. Within the Joint Project, these activities were focused on the implementation of the new Specialized protocol of the health care system to respond to violence against children, particularly to improve reporting of violence against children through the health care system. As part of these activities, practical guidelines were developed in cooperation with the Special Working Group by the Ministry of Health to address emerging issues such as response to gender-based violence, specificities of protecting children with disabilities from violence, addressing corporal punishment and paying a larger attention to violence prevention. The guidelines were publicly presented and promoted among professional community and the media in December 2019.

To support the capacities of the health care professionals to implement the Protocol, two online training modules were developed. UNICEF will advocate for the mandatory completion of these trainings for all health-care professionals, particularly the newly engaged.

As follow up to the first phase when intersectoral teams from 12 municipalities were trained on GBV, UNICEF continued supporting them to identify, refer and coordinate intervention in the cases when women or children are victims of violence.

This activity aimed to address the fact that interventions are usually focused on primary and direct victims while further investigation to identify other potential victims within the family are rarely initiated (e.g. when violence against children is identified, institutions often fail to explore if a mother or other members of the family are also victims, or when violence against women is reported, children are very often excluded from the restraining orders or protective measures due to the failure of institutions to identify them as victims).

Strengthening intersectoral collaboration is based on in depth capacity building of 4 health Violence against Children (VAC) multidisciplinary regional teams from Belgrade, Novi Sad, Kragujevac and Nis (24 professionals), who are being capacitated to become regional resource/hubs for transferring knowledge and mentoring the teams (their peers) from surrounding municipalities. The capacity building focused on the role of child health-care professionals in applying the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence and integrated case management for children and their mothers who are exposed to violence.

Following series of trainings for the health sector on GBV, UNFPA together with the Ministry of Health and Center for Women's Health Promotion, organized **advanced training** in Kragujevac in the period 4-6th June 2019. 17 participants were selected from eight different geographical areas: Kraljevo, Majdanpek, Zaječar, Dimitrovgrad, Prijepolje, Priboj, Užice and Čajetina and further advanced their training and communication skills so as to better implement follow up educations in their local communities.

As in previous years, UNFPA WAVE Resource Package Strengthening Health Sector Response to GBV adapted for Serbia was used as the main training material.

On 6 November in Belgrade, UNFPA together with Ministry of Health and Center for Women's Health organized a **conference "Strengthening Role of the Health Sector in Intersectorial Response to GBV"** which gathered over 100 participants from the health sector and other interested institutions and organizations. Conference served as an opportunity for providers to share their lessons learned, challenges and give recommendations for further work. Conference also highlighted the need for continuous education of health care providers in this area, as presentations by the health centres confirmed the impact trainings leave in their daily work to the extent that health care providers that passed trainings ask women about their home situation three times more than those who never attended any trainings.

EDUCATION

Software for monitoring violence and discrimination in education has been developed in cooperation with all relevant sectors of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development (MoESTD) and Center for Interactive Pedagogy (CIP). Consultations were performed with the Commissioner for Protection of Personal Data and the Institute for Evaluation of Education. The software was tested with representatives of the preschools, primary and secondary schools and education advisers. The purpose of the

software is to enable monitoring of the violence and discrimination and inform policy planning in schools and at the national level.

Training for capacity building of education advisers and the pool of external school advisers that the MoESTD has recently engaged to support schools in violence prevention has been designed based on the assessment of their needs and implemented on 2-3 December 2019, with a follow up supervisory meeting on 18 December 2019, with a total of 120 participants at each event. Both the training and the follow up meeting were used for promotion and finalization of the Guidebook for the work of the external school advisers. In addition, a workshop "Socio-emotional learning in the function of violence prevention" was organized.

In cooperation with the MoESTD, Institute for Improvement of Education and the CIP, the training for licensing preschool principals has been developed and a pool of jointly selected trainers have been trained. The training of all 150 preschool principals will be implemented in February 2020, with the support of the funds that the MoESTD provided through the loan from the World Bank.

Guidebook for schools - Toward the Safe and Supportive School Environment has been developed based on the revision of the comprehensive materials developed in the framework of the School without Violence programme. The Guidebook contains the legislative framework and procedures, but also provides a lot of materials for development of competences of teachers to develop safe and supportive school materials in cooperation with students and parents.



SUPPORTING GENDER SENSITIVE FAMILY ENVIRONMENT

Training “Support to development of gender balanced / gender sensitive family environment” was realized in December 2019 in Novi Sad and was attended by nurses from Novi Sad, Niš, Palilula, Vranje, Novi Pazar, Kragujevac and Bor, and representatives of the Association of Nurses of Preschool Educators of Serbia, representatives of the Institute of Public Health of Vojvodina, pediatricians of the Novi Sad Health Center, Women’s Safe House, Center for Social Work of the City of Novi Sad, family counseling local services provider.

33 participants had the opportunity to learn about the conceptual framework of gender-balanced relationships between parents and transition in parenting, gender-sensitive approach parenting in delivering services to children and families, importance of community-based networking to monitor and support families in creating a quality environment for child development, gender discrimination- parents from same-sex communities, families with violence.

The training provided facilitation of processing content at the following levels: attitudes and personal values; knowledge and awareness of gender-related content; an analysis of how existing services support families in building a gender-sensitive / gender-balanced environment; discussion of the resources that communities have in supporting families related to the development of a gender-sensitive environment.

As part of the gender balanced parenting support package at ECD, the following resources have been developed to build the capacity of parents and practitioners:

- Adapted training module (module 18)
The gender sensitive roles of mother and father in upbringing of young children
- Developed materials for working with families- 5 informative brochures
- Guidelines for strengthening quality practice in home visitation-building gender balanced family environments by supporting father involvement and parenting alliance
- Materials for group work with families focused on building strong parenting alliance



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CHILD MARRIAGE

UNICEF in Serbia continued the implementation of the programme towards ending child marriage in three localities in Serbia: Novi Bečej, Belgrade and Pirot. The program includes joint actions in cooperation with Roma women's organisations, relevant national and local institutions in the sectors of social welfare and education. Since the launch of the programme in January 2018 up until December 2019 with informed development and adjustments of the intervention, a total of 373 Roma girls and their parents have enhanced their awareness of the harmful effects of child marriage, and the importance of education, reproductive health, and underlying gender dynamics in their social setting. The roles of education and social welfare have been further strengthened to identify girls at risk of child marriage and improve practices to prevent child marriage. Working with schools in the vicinity of girls-at-risk-of-child-marriage contributed to raising awareness of early warning signals for school drop-out and support to girl's education. Local stakeholders are continuously supported to coordinate and deliver locally tailored action, utilizing existing resources to prevent child marriage.

The work and leadership of National Coalition to End Child Marriage chaired by the Coordination Body for Gender Equality and Roma women NGO Ternipe contributed to bringing attention to the issue at the national level and garnering decision-makers' commitment to ending child marriages in

Serbia, especially in the Roma population. The action is directed towards removal of institutional and social barriers to law enforcement and promoting examples of good practice in partnership with local communities, non-governmental, governmental and private sectors and the media. Policy advocacy work also directly contributed to the formulation of regulatory amendments to ban child marriage and to increased public awareness on the issue. Leveraging with government, nongovernmental and international actors, as well as continued support to Roma women's CSOs to take forward activities at both the local and national level, has secured their recognition and strengthened their voice in advocating for ending child marriage. Expansion of the partnership and initial efforts to strengthen Roma male activism have helped, for the first time in Serbia, by exploring options for a more systematic approach to challenging the attitudes and social norms among Roma males conducive to the practice of child marriage.

ACTION AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AFFECTING REFUGEE AND MIGRANT WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Within the framework of the implementation of the Phase II and III of the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) funded regional project "Action Against Gender-based Violence Affecting Refugee and Migrant Women and Children", around 1200

children, adolescents and women have participated in activities aiming at preventing and responding to GBV as well as increasing their access to gender sensitive child protection services. UNICEF continued to support Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS) in two locations (central Belgrade location covering new arrivals and rough sleepers, and in Borca, location close to Krnjaca asylum centre, covering population accommodated in it). Moreover, due to the high fluctuation of people, a mobile component with a caravan has been introduced for monitoring women' and girls' and UASC conditions in other 3 centers in Serbia. Pilot activities to engage fathers and brothers in transformational gender workshops was implemented together with a component addressing sexual violence against boys. Advocacy with social workers continued to prioritise the timely identification and proper care arrangements for unaccompanied and separated girls, as the majority of those identified disappear very quickly. Finally, UNICEF and partners marked the global campaign "16 Days of Activism" launching together with Council of Europe a publication on good practices to enhance child-friendly interventions with children on the move and producing a video on girls empowerment. UNICEF Serbia further strengthened the knowledge of SCRMM key senior management and improved their internal policies to enhance their statutory requirements to address child safeguarding and PSEA, as well as supported with a specialized training the enhancement of the capacities of the UN PSEA focal point in collaboration with the UNCT.

RAPE IN ADOLESCENCE

15
million



adolescent girls worldwide have experienced forced sex at some point in their life.

*Aged 15 to 19

SOURCE | UNICEF, 2017



FORMS OF VIOLENCE



Physical | Psychological | Sexual



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LEARNING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Digital exclusion mirrors and risks exacerbating long-established inequalities. Young people out of school, those living in remote areas with limited infrastructure, and women and girls are especially vulnerable since the lack of access and proficiency can reduce opportunities for pursuing technology-focused academic and career paths. Empowering children and young girls and boys, particularly the most vulnerable, during their most formative years will ensure that all can reap the benefits of the digital revolution.

Through Learning for the 21st Century 1,000 children and youth in 12 cities across Serbia will develop algorithmic thinking and learn robot programming. This free robotics program is organized by UNICEF and SEE ICT / StartIt in cooperation with the Cabinet of Minister without portfolio for innovation and technological development.

Starting from October 2019, young people from 11-14 years old, and particularly girls from vulnerable groups, develop basic programming knowledge and learn how to operate the robots themselves, using a simple programme code.

A tailored training programme is developed with a strong inclusion component to ensure that adolescent girls and boys from underserved or marginalized communities can participate, including those who do not have access to digital environment, cannot afford digital devices or have no access to this topic because of gender profiling.

Learning by experience, young participants solve problems in a creative way and boost digital and mathematical competences. Alongside with this, digital literacy for children particularly girls, including marginalized population, must be a priority to bridge the digital divide. In 2020 the programme will be expanded to even more cities in order to reach even higher number of adolescents, particularly girls.

BOOSTING YOUTH VOICES THROUGH U-REPORT

U-Report is a digital platform that empowers youth to share their opinion with decision makers on issues in their communities. It enables gathering opinions and information from young girls and boys on topics they care about - ranging from employment, gender equality to discrimination and child marriage. Young U-Reporters respond to polls, report issues and support child rights. The data and insights are shared back with communities and connected to policy makers who make decisions that affect young people.

Youth can join U-Report from anywhere in the world as the platform has scaled across 60 countries so far. UNICEF in Serbia launched the U-Report platform in November 2019 with a growing number of young U-Reporters on national level. Currently, 68% of U-Reporters in Serbia are female and, overall, their views were reflected in several documents, including the Situation Analysis of Children and Voluntary National Review.

Information received can be disaggregated by age, location and gender and provide valuable insights in real time. This way, through opinion polls and sharing key information, young girls are encouraged to share their perspective on various topics to call for action and create change. This enables a safe space for young girls and boys to be heard and bridges the gap between them and community leaders. For example, more than half of respondents think that girls and women in Serbia do not have the same rights as boys and men.

They say that safety and financial and job stability should be primarily addressed to improve the position of girls and women in our society.

U-Report is available on mobile phones but also aims to empower youth to expand their reach beyond devices they use every day. The results draw attention to urgent issues in shaping strategies and programmes and establish the missing link with national and local governments.

UNICEF will continue seeking and establishing close links between U-Report polls and enhanced use of the acquired data in policy-making and programming processes. Several partners have already joined hands with CO in designing polls, with an ongoing call to all other stakeholders to tailor the topics, use data and establish partnerships in near future.

MARRY-YOUR-RAPIST LAW

In

12



countries, rapists go free if they marry their victims.

*Based on the data from 185 countries, as of 2018

SOURCE | UN Women, 2019



MARITAL RAPE

Only

77



countries have legislation that explicitly criminalizes marital rape.

*Based on the data from 185 countries, as of 2018

SOURCE | UN Women, 2019



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SUPPORTING GENDER-BALANCED PARENTING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

In order to promote responsible and supportive business policies for the early development of children in November 2019, the conference “Family-Friendly Policies”, was held, attended by 200 participants. The media coverage enabled high visibility of the messages from the event. It gathered relevant high-level key speakers, e.g. the Minister for Demography and Population Policy, UNICEF Country Office Serbia Representative, the Commissioner for Protection of Equality, representatives of the private sector, the Institute of Mental Health, parents and other respectful experts and activists for family and child-friendly policies, business and communities. The key messages of the conference were that investing in family-friendly policies within business environment is needed because they are: good for children, women and men, businesses and the whole economy; well-designed support policies increase women’s participation in the workforce - economically empowering families; they increase motivation and skills of both parents for the job itself and also for strengthening developmental skills in children; reduce inequality and poverty in the society and gender imbalances and stereotypes about the role of women and men in raising a child. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals have recognized that the sustainable development begins with the youngest. Healthy, educated and resilient children that are raised in the stable and supportive gender balanced family environment, grow into productive adults, able to bring about sus-

tainable economic growth in their countries.

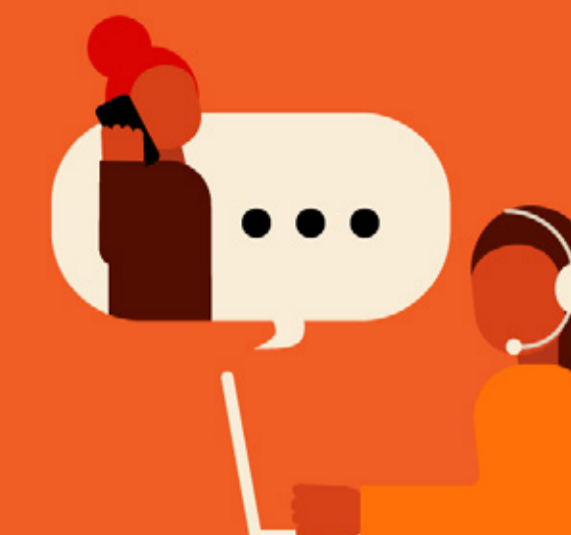
A meeting with directors of the largest health institutions and heads of the largest maternity hospitals/wards around Serbia, aimed to highlight management commitments in creating a supportive environment for the smooth implementation of the National Breastfeeding Support Programme, was organised at the beginning of December 2019. The programme is focused on addressing mother and child needs during pregnancy, delivery and hospital care, emphasizing the importance of a family-oriented approach, including father involvement in child growth and development.



RAPE REPORTING IN ADOLESCENCE

Only

1%



of adolescent girls who have experienced forced sex reached out for professional help.

*Based on the data from 30 countries

SOURCE | UNICEF, 2017



SEXUAL HARASSMENT

154



countries have laws on sexual harassment. But, even where laws exist, women from all walks of life still face sexual harassment every day.

SOURCE | World Bank Group, 2018





UNHCR and partners provided 612 protection interventions to asylum-seekers and refugees throughout Serbia (of which 53% were legal aid, 32% psychosocial services, 9% mediation and 2% skills training). Between 1 June 2019 and 31 January 2020, UNHCR and partners conducted the profiling of 24 000 refugees and migrants, out of whom 1 280 were women and 452 were girls. On 29 October and 14 November 2019, UNHCR conducted 3 focus group discussions to raise awareness on SEA with residents of the Reception and Transit Centres of Kikinda, Sid and Principovac. In total, 9 women participated in the discussions. Out of a total of 36 positive asylum decisions made by the Asylum Office for all of 2019 and January 2020, there were 12 females, including 3 girls. UNHCR and partners provide legal assistance and an individualized integration support to recognized refugees.

LEGAL AWARENESS AND CONSULTATION

- CRPC; From June 1, 2019 until January 31, 2020, CRPC referred 39 persons to appropriate legal aid actors.
- DRC; Through regular presence of field Protection Teams, DRC provides timely identification of vulnerable cases and first line response. DRC Women Protection Counsellor is monitoring the implementation of legal procedures and referral pathways in SGBV cases. A total number of 195 female asylum seekers and refugees were provided with legal information and counselling on their opportunity to seek asylum in Serbia and how to seek protection against sexual and gender-based violence. In case of need, DRC provides legal aid to the SGBV survivors. DRC assisted UNHCR in conducting 3 PSEA sessions in RC/TC Sid and RC/TC Principovac for POCs in November, 2019. DRC participates in sub-protection working group led by UNFPA.
- Throughout the reporting period, PIN conducted 11 psychological assessments for the purpose of asylum procedure on the request of Asylum Office and BCHR. The assessments were conducted for asylum seekers accommodated in ACs Krnjača, Banja Koviljača, Bogovađa and Sjenica, as well as Atina's Shelter and House of Rescue in Loznica. Starting from 2020 PIN will conduct psychological assessment for the purpose of asylum procedure for asylum seekers represented by HCIT. In addition, with the help from our colleagues from

A11 Initiative for Social and Economic rights PIN supported one beneficiary (current legal status - asylum seeker) through the process of obtaining a medical card from the National Health Insurance Fund. We will continue to advocate for this important initiative for our other beneficiaries as well.

- Sigma Plus counselled 90 women and 823 men.
- HCIT; More than 65 females were counselled on asylum procedure, registration, etc.
- A 11 Initiative published in July 2019 a short manual on the access to economic and social rights and personal documents "How to realize your rights? A guide for realizing human rights", which covers the most common problems related to access to the right to social protection, housing, health care (including access to health care for uninsured pregnant women), education, work (including examples of prohibited questions during job interviews such as those related to family and marriage status), security within community (including protection from gender based violence), as well as registration of residence and birth registration.

As a part of advocacy and awareness raising aspects, in July 2019, together with Share Foundation, Initiative sent comments on the Draft Law on Social Card to the competent ministry. Also, within the same group of activities, A 11 Initiative submitted comments on the Draft Law amending the Law on Social Protection.





In August 2019, in coalition of 12 CSOs and trade unions formed upon initiative of the A 11 Initiative, a submission was prepared and sent to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights regarding implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Serbia. In addition to covering topics of significance for vulnerable IDPs, one chapter is entirely designated to problems that IDPs face in the access to social rights because of residence requirements and one chapter is dedicated to equal rights of men and women. The submission also covers issues such as position of women in informal economy, textile industry and those involved in seasonal jobs; access to health care for uninsured pregnant women and legal amendments introduced by the new Law on Health Insurance and Law on Health Care (related to mandatory cancer screening) that will disproportionately affect women and rural population.

In November 2019, A 11 Initiative prepared comments and inputs regarding IDPs for Ombudsperson's Special Report on Implementation of the National Roma Inclusion Strategy. The report was prepared as a result of research conducted by representatives of the Protector of Citizens and A 11 Initiative in the period from April and July 2019. The report was presented on 11 December by representatives of UNHCR Serbia, Ombudsperson and A 11 Initiative.

- BCHR legal team continued to provide free legal aid to asylum seekers and persons granted asylum in the Republic of Serbia in all asylum and reception centres (1812 legally counselled from 1 June 2019 to 31 January 2020, out of which 829 were

women). Also, during the reporting period, the BCHR focused on monitoring the implementation of the new Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection and the new Law on Foreigners. BCHR provided legal assistance to persons of concern to UNHCR not granted status according to the Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection (LATP) advocating for alternative option - humanitarian residence according to the new Law on Foreigners.

PSYCHOSOCIAL COUNSELLING FOR WOMEN REFUGEES

- CRPC: Women identified were provided with individual support and referrals for specialized services.
- Amity field associates perform psychosocial counselling for women. In the period from 1st June 2019 to 31st January 2020, 1.110 women were advised, out of 1.126 PoC we worked with.
- Indigo provided 1 PFA (psychological first aid) and 22 PSS (psychological support) to 7 girls and 3 PFA and 37 PSS to 23 women, across 3 locations (Bujanovac, Vranje, and Pirot).
- IAN provided psychosocial support to 70 women.
- PIN provided 154 women and girls (103 women, 51 girls) with individual and group psychological counselling, psychosocial support, relevant information and referral for required specific services. 315 psychological counselling sessions were conducted with women, girls and other vulnerable groups throughout the

reporting period, focused on supporting self-reliance and self-efficacy through strengthening beneficiaries' capacities for practicing and adopting adaptive coping mechanisms and enhancing their cognitive and emotional flexibility.

- As in previous period, BCHR uses PIN and IAN services when needed. Relevant medical reports by PIN's and IAN's psychologists/psychiatrists are considered as a significant evidence in asylum procedure, especially in SGBV and other vulnerable cases.

BORDER MONITORING AND LEGAL AWARENESS FOR WOMEN REFUGEES AT TRANSIT POINT

- Sigma Plus observed the presence of 90 women (9,86%).
- HCIT; 254 females were observed in border areas, including Transit zones (pushed back, returned from Hungarian TZ, newly arrived into Serbia, etc).
- BCHR focused on the situation at Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport in order to ensure that all refugees who arrive there may access the asylum procedure, referring problematic cases to the proper judicial institutions, including the ECtHR. In cases when BCHR was contacted by women, or a group that includes women, from the transit zone of the Nikola Tesla Airport in order to provide gender sensitive legal counselling, the BCHR team always included one female legal officer and female translator when that was possible. From 1 June 2019 to 31 Janu-

ary 2020, there were 2 women in total who contacted BCHR team and who were provided with free legal assistance on Nikola Tesla Airport. Additionally, regarding persons who were referred to Shelter for Foreigners in Padinska Skela, BCHR conducted one visit in January 2020 in order to provide a single woman from Cameroon with free legal aid.

- CRPC observed 506 women and 271 girls as newly arrived in Belgrade.

WOMEN LEADERSHIP AND GENDER EMPOWERMENT IN REFUGEE COMMUNITIES

- PIN conducted a Training of Trainers (TOT) on Psychological First Aid (PFA) in Niš for 2 female community leaders in the refugee community of RTC Vranje who attended the initial PFA training and were motivated to learn how to deliver a similar training to the members of their community and, in that way, become Peer Counsellors in their communities. Furthermore, PIN provided support in the development of social entrepreneurship for 1 female beneficiary that presented her handmade Persian jewellery and other handicrafts during the Belgrade Night Market at Djeram Market, Katapult Festival at Delta City Shopping Center, and PIN's Art Exhibition. Additionally, PIN provided this beneficiary with an opportunity to attend the Marketing and Social Management course delivered by IT expert with the aim of helping her to promote her entrepreneurship products to a larger scale.



- Jointly supported by IRIS Network and UNHCR Serbia, CRPC escorted and assisted 7 LGBTI asylum seekers and refugees to attend Belgrade Pride March in September 2019. Additionally, CRPC participated in LGBT+ Rights and Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Based Refugee Claims training. CRPC also participated in workshops for UASC peer educators on SGBV, human trafficking and harmful traditional gender stereotypes in the framework of the Community Based Protection of the Rights of UASC in Preventing SGBV Project (DRC-IDEAS-CRPC-UNHCR jointly).

EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- DRC has conducted intensive Serbian language classes for POC accommodated in AC Banja Koviljaca, including 8 female asylum seekers.
- Amity and its field associates do not implement educational and recreational activities, but provide support in the form of mediation with educational institutions, help with enrolment in schools, providing financial social assistance for the purchase of books (through CSW) or providing transportation benefits for the schoolchildren. Additionally, the costs of language lessons, IT trainings, digital marketing course, driving course and sewing course, enhancing their employment/business opportunities were paid for 29 beneficiaries from the refugee and asylum seekers population, out of which 5 are women.

- INDIGO: Educational, creative and recreational activities were continuously organised for children, including 78 girls. INDIGO continued assisting the children in doing homework and studying, as well working on their motivation for going to school. Non-formal educational and recreational activities were organised on a daily basis in Bujanovac and Vranje and twice a week in Pirot. Four refugee girls and women were involved in planning, organisation and implementation of the educational, creative and recreational activities.
- Indigo conducted workshops for the parents in Vranje and Bujanovac, where around 30 mothers were included.
- Sigma Plus; 85 women (20%) participated in educational and recreational activities.
- CRPC; Refugee students of Branko Pesic Elementary School and beneficiaries of Centre for Minors in Vodovodska St. were supported with cultural mediation in native languages. Pashto literacy classes were provided to 18 asylum seeker children at these two institutions. Additionally, 13 children were supported with formal high school and general education, assisted with homework and better understanding of school subjects. CRPC provided translation to UN's PSEA leaflet/poster in Arabic, Urdu, Farsi and Pashto (Zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse – (SEA) - committed by the staff of the UN, the partners or humanitarian workers).
- IAN provided educational and recreational activities to 6 refugees (5 males and 1 female).

SGBV IDENTIFICATION AND FOLLOW-UP

- DRC: the main focus of DRC activities, within UNHCR funded project, is on GBV prevention and protection including legal representation before the courts. The DRC Protection Team has regularly visited 3 asylum centres, with on-call visits to other reception/transit centres. In order to provide effective SGBV prevention and response, DRC implements a set of actions at all levels (individual, community and society level). Within the reporting period, total number of 18 SGBV cases has been identified and followed up by DRC PT. In addition, DRC conducted Focus Group Discussions to raise awareness on Women Rights, including Protection against GBV with 60 female asylum seekers/migrants in 3 asylum/reception centres and Focus Group Discussions to raise awareness on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of children with 24 parents in 3 asylum/reception centres.
- Amity Field associates identify and monitor SGBV cases. In the period from 1st June 2019 to 31st January 2020, 19 SGBV cases were identified.
- INDIGO followed 1 SGBV case in Vranje
- IAN followed up one SGBV case.
- Throughout the reporting period, 10 previously identified SGBV survivors have been followed up and provided with psychological support and counselling by PIN, in coordination with all relevant actors (CSW, medical institutions, UNHCR, Atina).
- From 1 June 2019 to 31 January 2020, BCHR provided 519 women in total with free legal assistance.

BCHR legal team currently represents 71 women and 18 unaccompanied children in the asylum procedure before the relevant national institutions. Out of these numbers, 16 are survivors of SGBV, both women and UASC.

BCHR pays special attention during identification and further representation of members of this particular groups, and fully respects and advocates for gender sensitive approach of asylum process (lawyers, AO officials and translators of the same sex).

- From June 1, 2019 until January 31, 2020, CRPC identified, provided with support and referred 3 GBV cases.

PROTECTION AND WELL-BEING OF REFUGEE AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN

- DRC: Through regular presence of field Protection Teams, DRC identified, assisted, counselled and/or referred 768 UASC. In partnership with CRPC and IDEAS, DRC trained 12 peer educators (UASC) on gender norms, gender-based violence, LGBT+ rights and discrimination and human trafficking. The PEs conducted 3 raising awareness activities for their peers who have been accommodated in AC Krnjaca, JRC House and AC Sjenica.
- Amity Field associates work on the protection and wellbeing of children in the form of mediation at educational (help with enrolment in schools, provision of financial social assistance for the procurement of books, provision of benefits for transportation of schoolchildren) and health insti-



- tutions. In the period from 1st June 2019 to 31st January 2020, Amity provided support to 299 children, out of whom 150 were girls.
- INDIGO provided 23 services of PFA and PSS to 7 refugee girls; assisted in further actions and referred and cooperated with the other actors, including SWCs. INDIGO provided 1 PFA and 19 PSS services to 13 mothers in Vranje, Bujanovac and Pirot. INDIGO also provided PSS through psychological, creative and educational workshops, individual and group discussions, social and educational games and movie projections in Bujanovac and Vranje reception centres. Additionally, INDIGO continued organising non-formal educational and recreational activities with the refugee children in Bujanovac, Vranje and Pirot. Indigo assisted 20 single mothers in Vranje, Bujanovac and Pirot RCs with counselling, advocacy and other services. 7 female UASC were identified in Pirot, Bujanovac and Vranje; referred and provided support.
 - IAN supported 39 children.
 - PIN conducted 66 counselling sessions, psychoeducational workshops and integration activities with 156 children (108 girls, 48 boys) in Belgrade and AC Banja Koviljača. The activities aimed to develop personal skills and capacities for more efficient management of challenging situations using the interactive approach that included different age, gender and culturally adjusted topics. Furthermore, activities were aimed to enhance participants' knowledge on physical and psychosocial aspects of their identity result-

ing in an improved emotional stability and resilience.

- BCHR provides child-sensitive information, counselling and support to children to file an asylum claim and guides them through the entire asylum procedure, making sure that the best interests of a child are properly taken into consideration with due diligence. From 1 June 2019 to 31 January 2020, BCHR provided legal counselling to 305 minors, out of which 156 are UASC. Research results conducted by the Child Protection officer on the state of respect of children rights in the asylum procedure in the Republic of Serbia against international, regional and national standards are included in the regular quarter and, with more details, in the BCHR annual report on the right to asylum in the Republic of Serbia for 2019, which will be published in the following period.
- CRPC identified and referred a total of 1726 UASC children (6 girls).

LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS AT RISK OF STATELESSNESS IN SERBIA

- Praxis continued working with stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness in Serbia, mainly with members of Roma population. In the stated period, a total of 111 persons (51 men and 60 women) had their nationality granted or confirmed with the assistance provided by Praxis. Praxis also organised activities aimed at raising awareness of harmful practice of

CEFM among school children. In the stated period, Praxis held 8 awareness-raising workshops with 196 children (170 girls and 26 boys) from 6th and 7th grades in 8 primary schools in Serbia.





INTERNATIONAL DAYS

World Population Day- On July 10th, 2019, the World Population Day was celebrated in front of the Faculty of Philosophy with the UNFPA, the Cabinet of the Minister without portfolio in charge of demography and population policy, and the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality. The event featured the 'living' books allowing citizens the opportunity to hear real-life stories from marginalized and vulnerable groups and to participate in painting a canvas with messages they would like to send to their fellow citizens around the world. During the event passers-by in Knez Mihaila street also engaged in writing, drawing and painting messages that will be 'sent to the world' via social networks, symbolically connecting citizens of Serbia with other parts of the planet. Some of the messages were: 'love makes the world go around', 'we are all equal', 'no hate'.

26 September – World Contraception Day. UNFPA launched online quiz on Facebook on WCD How much do you know about Contraception? with a goal to raise awareness and break myths about reliable contraception methods. The quiz in Serbian had a total reach of 36,100 people and 4,700 engagements on Facebook.

25 November 2019- UNFPA together with the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs officially launched revised version of The Standard Operating Procedures of the Republic of Serbia for the Prevention of and Protection from Gender Based Violence against People Involved in Mixed Migration. SOPs have been prepared to respond to the challenge of providing protection to persons affected by the crisis, who are in transit, displaced, or temporarily living in Serbia. The recommendations, principles and guidelines in these SOPs are a valuable tool for protecting GBV survivors transiting through or displaced in Serbia

16 Days of Activism

Traditionally marking 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence, this year UN Women in Serbia launched a street campaign. The numbers speak volumes and statistics on violence against women in Serbia are staggering. We decided to let the numbers speak for themselves and advocate for the victims. Specifically, we branded the inside and outside of 5 public buses in Belgrade, Novi Sad, Nis and Kragujevac with campaign messages and key statistics. This was coupled with both static and video campaign materials being posted in public areas with high-levels of pedestrian traffic in the same four cities. By bringing the facts and our message literally to the streets of our cities, we hoped to expand our audience and both engage and inform a wider public. The campaign was launched on 22 November with a symbolic ride on a branded bus through the Belgrade's city-center for media and keynote speakers Zorana Mihajlovic, Deputy Prime Minister and the President of the Coordination Body for Gender Equality in Serbia, Sem Fabrizi, Head of the EU Delegation to Serbia and Jelena Sekulic Nedeljkovic, UN Women Project Officer.