



WOMEN AND MEN IN SERBIA: AT A GLANCE

KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN SERBIA

In July 2018, the CEDAW Committee hosted a pre-session meeting for the Republic of Serbia with women NGOs presenting Shadow CEDAW Reports and outlining a progress up to date, challenges, and opportunities for the advancement of women's rights in Serbia. Following the pre-session meeting, the CEDAW Committee announced a List of issues in relation to the fourth periodic report of Serbia. The regular session where the state report will be discussed is scheduled for February 2019.

The Government of Serbia prepared the first state report on stopping and preventing violence against women. Serbia submitted the report to the GREVIO committee, an international body charged with monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Convention of the Council of Europe on preventing and curbing violence against women. The report lists all the important legal and strategic measures being carried out by the government in fighting gender-based violence, backed by relevant statistical information.

In September, the Coordination Body for Gender Equality initiated the Evaluation of the National Action Plan for Gender Equality, 2016-2018, which will serve as the basis for development of the Action Plan for 2019-2020. Furthermore, as a preparation of marking 25 years since the Beijing Platform for Action, a framework for change, the Government of Serbia committed to prepare a National Beijing +25 Review taking a stock of the progress achieved under 12 critical areas of concern.

The period has been marked by dynamic changes to the Serbia legislative framework. The Law on Financial Support to Families started with the implementation. Even though the Law broadened the scope of beneficiaries of benefits, it decreased the rights of many beneficiaries, including pregnant women, women on maternity leave and parents. The Law on Gender Equality has yet to enter the parliamentary procedure.

The Republic of Serbia committed to systematic gender mainstreaming in the key areas. The National priorities for development assistance (NAD), placed a principle of gender mainstreaming at the center of the new policy document development.

The Ministry of Construction, Transport, and Infrastructure signed up to EU Platform for change for Women in Transport, while with the Ministry of Environment, Serbia became the fifth country in the world to develop a Voluntary Gender Report under the UNFCCC.

Violence against women and girls is recognized as a critical issue for women's rights in Serbia with lots of women joining the global #HearMeToo Campaign. However, there is a notable rise of sexism and misogyny.



RESPECT
WOMEN

(it's simple)





COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

During the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence campaign UN Women, in partnership with the Ministry of Interior, has launched a new project “Improved safety for women in Serbia.” The project is generously funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Norad and will be implemented in the period 2019-2021. The long-term project goal is that women and girls in Serbia live in a society free from gender-stereotypes and violence. The project will focus on increasing the knowledge and capacities of police officers, justice actors and MPs for introducing and implementing innovative practices for better realization of urgent measures for victim protection against perpetrator of violence, GPS bracelets for victim(s) and perpetrator(s).

In September/October 2018, UN Women invited women’s civil society organizations (CSOs) to submit proposals for three new call for proposals under the Programme “Ending Violence against Women: Implementing Norms, Changing Minds”. The first call for proposals invited CSOs to develop and support an advocacy or dialogue with relevant government institutions and independent government bodies mandated to work on gender equality and anti-discrimination, particularly against Roma and rural communities. The CSO Victimology Society of Serbia (VDS) was selected as the strongest candidate to implement a strategy to develop an advocacy dialogue through significant engagement with relevant stakeholders mandated to work on gender equality as well as

to provide a variety of legal services that will be available to VAW victims from minority and disadvantaged groups. The aim is to assist in overcoming gender stereotypes and enable more efficient support services by encouraging more women to come forward by making them more easily accessible.

The second call for proposals issued invited CSOs to develop and deliver initiatives aimed at empowering women living in rural areas and other women facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. The intended outcomes included raising awareness amongst women living in rural areas, as well as other marginalized women, to recognize and report violence as specified in the Istanbul Convention and the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence. It also included adequate use of available services and increase capacities of service providers when it comes to adequate support to women living in rural areas and other marginalised women in at least 5 municipalities in Serbia. The Association of Women “Pescanik” Kruševac was selected to carry out this initiative. In addition to working on other projects aimed at ending violence against women, the project partnership envisages a cooperation amongst six women’s organizations from all over Serbia, creating a beneficial opportunity for mutual learning and a stronger alliance between CSOs on the grassroots level. The third call for proposals issued by UN Women invited CSOs to develop and implement a Strategic Communication Programme for Achieving Specific Behavioral Results with

regards to reducing Violence Against Women (VAW) in Serbia. Two strategies are selected for implementation of this action. One strategy outlines a specific communications campaign strategy and methodology to facilitate self-help groups of female domestic violence survivors and violence prevention programmes for girls. The second strategy which will be implemented involves the innovative plan of targeting and informing young men and boys about violence against women, through various educational activities.

In addition to this, UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women is supporting MDRI, Fund B92, AWC and ARNB.

Abuse

isn't always physical.



UN WOMEN

UN WOMEN





Support to Priority Actions for
Gender Equality in Serbia

#EUzatebe

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 supported eight (8) local self-governments/Local Gender Equality Mechanisms, from Municipality of Aleksinac, Municipality of Knjazevac, City of Krusevac, City of Sabac, Municipality of Temerin, Municipality of Tutin, City of Uzice and Municipality of Zitiste, that will implement measures and activities from adopted Local Action Plan on Gender Equality. The focus is on improvement of status of women in the labour market, women entrepreneurship and economic empowerment of rural women, and on promotion and the implementation of the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life.

In September, UN Women organized a training session for the employees of the Ministry of European Integration, IPA unit and gender focal points of the ministries (24 participants, 22 women and 2 men), with the aim to enhance their knowledge and skills to include gender perspective in strategic planning, as well as in the programming and implementation of IPA assistance and other EU financial instruments.

In October, UN Women organized a training “Gender Perspective and Gender Aspects in Daily Work” for the representatives of national and provincial Institutes for gender responsive governance (30 participants - 30 women and 0 men), who upon the completion of the training increased the level of

knowledge for 31%, according when compared to the results from entrance and exit test. At the end of the training, UN Women supported the development of the Final Evaluation of the National Action Plan for Gender Equality for the period 2016-2018.

Furthermore, UN Women conducted capacity assessment of civil servants working in the Ministry for European Integration and IPA units of the line ministries for gender responsive planning and implementation of EU funds. Based on the assessment, training programme was developed and conducted in September 2018 for the task managers of the EU Delegation in Serbia, representatives of the Ministry for European Integration of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and gender focal points from the EU Delegations from the Western Balkans countries and Turkey (48 participants, 37 women and 11 men). The training, which was organized on a boat to Golubac fortress, aimed to enhance their knowledge and skills to include gender perspective in the programming and to provide tools and methodologies in strategic planning, programming, monitoring and reporting of IPA assistance and other EU financial instruments.

As UN Women seeks to support gender mainstreaming of the key government document for planning and programming of donor assistance, the representative of UN Women and gender consultants participated in more than 20 consultancy meetings with more than 100 representatives of national institutions, civil society organizations and

donor community. This resulted in a long list of priorities for international assistance along with criteria for prioritization of activities with specific focus on gender equality and antidiscrimination. In addition, gender specific analyses were developed for each of nine sectors. In addition to this, UN Women organized a training session for the employees of the Ministry of European Integration, IPA unit and gender focal points of the ministries, based on previously conducted needs assessment, to further strengthen capacities to include gender perspective in strategic planning, as well as in the programming and implementation of IPA assistance and other EU financial instruments.

In a bid to increase the capacities of the Ministry for European Integration to effectively lead and coordinate Serbia EU negotiation process in the area related to Cohesion Policy through advancing gender responsive governance, UN Women organized a study visit to Copenhagen, Denmark. The Study visit was attended by representatives of the following institutions: Ministry of European Integration, Coordination Body for Gender Equality, Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, Public Investment Management Office and UN Women Programme Office in Serbia.

Considering the importance of gender analyses and gender impact assessment of key government documents, UN Women consultant developed gender analyses of the Ministry for Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, gender analyses of the national

employment strategy and assessment of the public expenditure on national women’s employment policy. Moreover, UN Women in cooperation with NALED (National alliance for local economic development) will review data, analyse the effects and gender impact of programmes and measures implemented by Serbian Development Agency/Regional Development Agencies.

UN Women supported implementation of the National Action Plan for Gender Equality 2016-2018 through signing of agreements with eight women’s civil society organizations to implement projects in the area of women’s entrepreneurship and economic empowerment of rural women. Furthermore, UN Women organized a 1-day seminar on project implementation, monitoring and evaluation, in order to support capacity development of these eight selected women’s CSOs and developed the Manual for Grant Scheme Implementation, which contains key information on all aspects of project implementation, including general project management, narrative reporting, financial reporting, procurement, visibility and project monitoring.



WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in its Concluding observations on the initial report of the Republic of Serbia from May 2016 states that it is concerned at the lack of specific actions implemented by the State party to prevent and combat the multiple and intersectional discrimination that women and girls with disabilities face, particularly in access to justice, protection against violence and abuse, education, health and employment. It is also concerned at the lack of sufficient or transparent funding and employment-related measures tailored to the needs of women with disabilities, and that women with disabilities are not consulted in the design of programmes and measures aimed at women in general or at persons with disabilities.

UN Women Serbia, in cooperation with OHCHR, UNFPA, UNDP and ILO, and the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, with the support of UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Fund, continued implementing the project Autonomy, Voice and Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Serbia.

In partnership with DPOs and CSOs, UN Women established Mentoring Programme for Women and Girls with Disabilities with the aim of supporting and helping women and girls with disabilities to achieve their rights, encourage and motivate them to improve their everyday life, to assist with career and professional development. The Mentoring Programme will empower 10 women with disabilities who will be empowered to provide mentoring support to other women and girls with disabilities in different life areas, including community living, access to rights, education, employment and professional development, civic activism, etc.

In addition, UN Women commissioned a research that will map women and girls with disabilities at top management positions within DPOs and women CSOs in the Republic of Serbia, identify challenges they face and their training needs in order to strengthen their capacities to obtain leadership positions within the DPOs and women CSOs.

WHAT SHE MEANS WHEN SHE SAYS 'NO':

1. No



#HearMeToo
#OrangetheWorld
#16days





GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING

UN Women continued to support the process of GRB implementation, in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance, the Coordination Body for Gender Equality and the Provincial Secretariat for Finance. UN Women supported further building of capacities of budgetary users at the national and provincial level through training and two rounds of individual mentoring support, in line with the Annual Plan for GRB Introduction in the 2019 Budget, issued by the Minister of Finance and the Provincial Secretary of Finance. In total, 127 civil servants (88 women, 29 men) from 65 budget users were trained in introducing gender perspective in their budgets and reporting on financing for gender equality. UN Women organized a study visit to Austria, in a bid to further strengthen capacities of the Government representatives and support institutionalization of GRB introduction in Serbia. Austria is one of three countries worldwide that has introduced GRB in its constitution and has in place balanced, inter-connected set of budgetary governance arrangements in a bid to promote gender equality in resource allocation and use. As a result of the study visit, representatives of 8 institutions at national and provincial level have learnt from practice in Austria about gender mainstreaming in policies, GRB tools and mechanisms, and gender impact assessment processes and had the opportunity to share experiences in GRB in-

troductioin in Serbia. These experiences have also been shared by the Provincial Secretary of Finance who has presented Serbian GRB experience during the UN Women GRB Regional Conference, organized in FYR Macedonia in May 2018, attended by representatives of finance institutions, gender equality mechanisms and women's CSO from Macedonia, Bosna and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania and Moldova. Furthermore, based on the request of the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia, UN Women presented experiences in GRB introduction to Gender Focal Points of the DEU in Serbia, Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey and to Gender Equality Officer at DG NEAR, European Commission.

BEIJING +25 NATIONAL REVIEW

In 2020, the global community will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995). A five-year milestone will be reached towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. 2020 is therefore a pivotal year for the accelerated realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, everywhere.

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will carry out in its sixty-fourth Session an appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (PoA) and the outcomes of the twenty-third Special Session of the General Assembly. The review will include an assessment of current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The sixty-fourth session of the CSW will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in March 2020. Representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all regions of the world are invited to attend the session.

To this end, UN Women Programme Office in Serbia will support the work of the Coordination Body for Gender Equality of the Government of Serbia to prepare a national report on progress made towards the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the upcoming year. The National Review Report will be based on consolidated inputs by various national partners, non-governmental actors and UN informants within Serbia, which will then be fed into a regional report. The regional report, to be based on national reviews conducted by each of the UN member countries, will then feed into a global report to be consolidated by CSW Secretariat at UN Women in time for the CSW 64th Session which the Secretary General will present to the General Assembly.

Furthermore, the UN Women Programme Office in Serbia will support the facilitation of the Beijing 25+ National Review to ensure gender perspective is consistently applied throughout the project indicators, targets and activities.



GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

At the latest Climate Change Conference in Bonn (COP23), in November 2017, the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) reiterated their commitment to mainstreaming gender in climate action and the UNFCCC process, by adopting a Gender Action Plan providing specific guidance on integrating gender equality into all aspects of UNFCCC and state parties work and activities. This is a positive development that will further the momentum for tracking progress on gender and climate action globally.

In the period of November 2017 – October 2018, UN Women Serbia, in cooperation with UNDP, through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded project on the Climate Smart Urban Development (CSUD) has supported the work of the Ministry of Environmental Protection on gender mainstreaming of climate smart actions. This included strengthening capacities of the Ministry, public institutions, local self-governments, CSOs and other stakeholders on the gender dimension of climate change resilience and adaptation as well as key governing frameworks for gender responsive planning.

Specifically, UN Women assisted in the development of gender-sensitive criteria through the elaboration of two documents: i) Frequently Asked Questions: Gender Equality and Climate Change, and ii) a Gender Annex to the set of application documents within the Innovation Challenge for Mature Project Ideas.

A total of 381 people, of which 252 were women and 129 were men now have increased

awareness of the intersectionality between gender equality and climate change and are better equipped to identify possible actions on gender equality and climate change. This was achieved through 10 outreach events.

Training handbook with a review of documents, tools, key gender aspects, and a guide to include a gender perspective into policies and measure was developed and a three-day training for 20 representatives of ministries, local self-governments and CSOs organized. Consequently, the training participants' knowledge of the topic increased by 30%.

Additional technical assistance and mentoring support was provided to specific projects in preparation of gender sensitive budgets or establishing gender-oriented partnerships.

With the support of UN Women, the Ministry now has a clear overview of existing practices of mainstreaming gender into climate policies, plans and actions and is on track to propose a set of recommendations for further improvement of its work in this area.

Additionally, UN Women allocated some of the core resources to further support the work of the Ministry of Environmental Protection on gender mainstreaming of climate smart actions. Thus, in early November UN Women organized a study visit to Finland for the Ministry of Environmental Protection on mainstreaming gender into environmental and climate change policies with the aim of facilitating learning and exchange of experience among key government representatives on specific measures implemented towards mainstreaming gender into climate adaptation and mitigation activities and discussing main challenges and major issues of implementing this process on both national and lo-

cal level. Also, UN Women conducted Research on Gender Patterns of Household Waste Management and is currently finalizing the plan for an educational awareness raising campaign targeting both women and men through which research results will be presented and general public's perception about waste management options and environmental awareness impacted.

GENDER AND DRR

Together with the Public Investment Management Office of the Republic of Serbia, UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia has organized a session dedicated to gender sensitive DRR during the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction, organized in Rome, Italy, in November 2018. It was attended by more than 60 participants and contributed to the increased awareness on gender inequality of risk, the need to include women in DRR planning and response and the necessity to further raise knowledge of the gender dimension of DRR.



#HearMeToo
#OrangetheWorld
#16days



Empower Empower

Show support to survivors of gender-based violence.



#HearMeToo
END VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN
AND GIRLS



SWISS PRO SUPPORT TO ENHANCEMENT OF GENDER EQUALITY AT LOCAL LEVEL

Gender equality, as one of the pillars of the Swiss PRO Programme, is in focus as a significant principle and an area in which activities are conducted to strengthen the institutional framework for the application of this principle at the local level, as well as to enhance local gender equality policies.

The Swiss PRO Programme provides support to the local self-governments (LSG) for establishing and/or strengthening of at least 30 local Gender Equality Mechanisms (GEM), which will contribute to a better position and respect for the rights of women and girls at the local level. All established and functional GEMs will have an opportunity to pilot projects identified as a priority in their local GE action plans. The Swiss PRO also supports the establishment of at least 30 Local Women's Councillor Networks with the aim of promoting and advocating this important topic.

The Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities, within the Swiss PRO Programme, conducted the public call for the Municipal Support Packages (MSP) for improvement of transparency and citizen participation, which will among other areas include direct mentorship support for the implementation of gender responsive budgeting in seven towns and municipalities: Belgrade, Kikinda, Jagodina, Smederevo, Kucevo, Veliko Gradiste and Vracar. The MPS will be implemented in the period from November 2018 until October 2019, and will include provision of expert support and professional knowledge

in the subject areas through training, mentorship, advisory support, and support to the improvement of existing or the development of new procedures and acts in local self-governments in line with the developed models and best practices.

Furthermore, the Swiss PRO Programme has launched in November 2018 a snapshot assessment of the institutional status and existing capacities of the LSGs and Gender Equality Mechanisms (GEMs) in 99 LSGs in the AoR¹, as well as the availability of local GE action plans (GELAPs). The first findings will be prepared in January 2019, when recommendations will be made for further implementation of activities at the local level. All envisaged activities will contribute to the implementation of the National Action Plan for Gender Equality and will be coordinated with the Coordination Body for Gender Equality and National Women Parliamentarian Network.

¹ Programme Area of Responsibility: Aleksandrovac, Aleksinac, Arandelovac, Arilje, Babušnica, Bajina Bašta, Batočina, Bela Palanka, Blace, Bogatić, Bojnik, Boljevac, Bor, Bosilegrad, Brus, Bujanovac, Crna Trava, Čačak, Čajetina, Čičevac, Čuprija, Despotovac, Dimitrovgrad, Doljevac, Gadžin Han, Golubac, Gornji Milanovac, Ivanjica, Jagodina, Kladovo, Knić, Knjaževac, Koceljeva, Kosjerić, Kragujevac, Kraljevo, Krupanj, Kruševac, Kučevo, Kuršumlija, Lajkovac, Lapovo, Lebane, Leskovac, Loznica, Lučani, Ljig, Ljubovija, Majdanpek, Mali Zvornik, Malo Crniće, Medveda, Merošina, Mionica, Negotin, Niš, Nova Varoš, Novi Pazar, Osečina, Paraćin, Petrovac na Mlavi, Piroć, Požarevac, Požega, Preševo, Priboj, Prijepolje, Prokuplje, Rača, Raška, Ražanj, Rekovac, Sjenica, Smederevo, Smederevska Palanka, Sokobanja, Surdulica, Svilajnac, Svrlijig, Šabac, Topola, Trgovište, Trstenik, Tutin, Ub, Užice, Valjevo, Varvarin, Velika Plana, Veliko Gradište, Vladimirci, Vladičin Han, Vlasotince, Vranje, Vrnjačka Banja, Zajčar, Žabari, Žagubica, Žitorađa.



WORKING WITH MEN AND BOYS IN SERBIA

International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES), the most comprehensive survey carried out to date on men's attitudes and practices on a wide variety of topics related to gender equality as well as women's opinions and reports of their own experiences has been widely promoted after May 2018.

After the central event- Belgrade conference on 17 May, five local conferences were organized in June in Novi Sad, Cacak, Krusevac, Kragujevac and Nis. Conferences gathered representatives of ministries, local institutions, international organizations, national organizations and NGOs, experts, academics, activists, and sparked interesting debates regarding data and its further use.

IMAGES Serbia is based on a nationally representative sample, which included 1,060 men and 540 women. IMAGES was developed by UNFPA, Ministry of Youth and Sports and Center E8 within the framework of the Joint Programme Integrated Response to Violence Against Women and Girls in Serbia II, with additional support of Promundo, CARE International Balkans and OAK Foundation. IMAGES Serbia is available [here](#).

SIGNS OF RELATIONSHIP ABUSE



People in an abusive relationship may:

SEXUAL VIOLENCE



15 million

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

* Aged 15 to 19





HEALTH AND VIOLENCE

Trainings titled “Health Sector Responses to Gender based Violence” were organized, prepared and delivered in cooperation between Ministry of Health, Center for Women’s Health Promotion and UNFPA, for health care providers in Zlatibor and Bor on 25 – 27 June 2018, and 27- 29 November respectively. Over 40 health care professionals from primary and secondary health care institutions from Zlatibor, Bor, Zajecar, Pirot and Pcinjski regions enhanced their knowledge on how to recognize and respond to GBV.

EMERGENCIES

Sexual and Gender Based Violence Sub-cluster Working Group (SGBV Sub-cluster WG) in the Republic of Serbia lead by MOLEVSA with UNFPA support, met twice since June 2018. Working Group aims to consolidate and coordinate the activities of all relevant stakeholders to improve support the prevention and response to SGBV among refugees and migrants.

UNFPA continues to support direct work with survivors of gender based violence within the refugee populations and work of mobile teams and cultural mediators in cooperation with NGO Atina. NGO Atina has been providing direct support to the most vulnerable women and girls among refugee and migrant population, through urgent interventions, individual counselling and long term assistance. During month of October, with the support of UNFPA Atina’s mobile teams and case managers provided assistance to 9 women who had experienced GBV.

In addition with the support of UNFPA, NGO Atina during the month of October with the support of UNFPA, NGO Atina conducted 16 empowerment workshops in five locations - AC Krnjaca, Reintegration Center of NGO Atina, AC Bogovadja, TC Bujanovac and TC Bogovadja for 114 beneficiaries.

UNFPA continued long-lasting partnership with IP Danish Refugee Council to overcome challenges and to ensure that needs have been met. As of October, through of the project UNFPA and DRC aimed to contribute to the increase of availability, accessibility of dignity items for refugee and migrant women and girls in Serbia.

Within this activity during the reporting period, 500 dignity kits were distributed and 1,150 condoms given to infirmary/medical unit.

INTERNATIONAL OBSERVANCES

UNFPA, the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency, marked World Population Day on 10 July in Belgrade with a dedicated panel discussion. This year’s World Population Day was celebrated under the slogan “Family planning is a human right” and devoted to the 50th anniversary of the United Nations International Conference on Human Rights (1968), when for the first time ever, family planning was affirmed to be a human right.

Ministry of Health of the Republic of Serbia and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) cordially marked World Contraception Day, 26 September, with presentation of the National Program for Safeguarding and

Improving Sexual and Reproductive Health of the Citizens of the Republic of Serbia. With adoption of this National Programme, Serbia became one of the few countries that fully aligned national priorities in the area of sexual and reproductive health with the Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health (2016-2030) and the WHO Action Plan for Sexual and Reproductive Health: Towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Europe – leaving no one behind. More info [here](#).

UNFPA in collaboration with NGO Atina and Local Youth Office in Novi Pazar marked 11 October, International Girl Child Day with a public action titled “With girls and for girls”. Educational, dance and music workshop were organized in afternoon hours at the Novi Pazar city square.

FORMS OF VIOLENCE



Physical

Sexual

Psychological

UN WOMEN

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION



At least

200 million
women and girls alive
today have undergone
FGM.

The majority of girls
were cut before

Age 5.

* In 30 countries where representative data is available

UN WOMEN



GAINING MOMENTUM - INTEGRATING THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE INTO SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS (SALW) CONTROL, IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE AND GLOBALLY

We are witnessing a paradigm shift from a predominantly gender-blind approach to arms control to recognizing the importance of multiple linkages between gender and armed violence for assuring safety and security for all. This shift is reflected by increased commitments among governments and international actors to place gender at the core of their arms control agendas. The below is a brief overview of these latest global developments, including best practices from South East Europe to this global agenda setting as developed by UNDP SEESAC and partners in the region.

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

In June 2018, the **Third Review Conference** on the **UN Programme of Action on Small Arms** (RevCon3) was held in New York to set the agenda for how the future of disarmament will look like. SEESAC and the European Union (EU) organized the “*Gender lenses on - how does it change the impact of firearms control?*” panel drawing upon expertise from Africa, Europe, North America and South America, from international organizations and civil society, to debate how mainstreaming gender at policy-making level can be implemented in practice. The panel concluded that the common denominator that hinders

safety and security for all citizens is a gender-blind SALW control policy-making.

Unlike the 2001 United Nations Programme of Action which was silent on gender, RevCon3 was finalized with an **outcome document** fully recognizing the importance of gender for effective and sustainable arms control frameworks. In connection to SALW Control, the document calls for: mainstreaming gender considerations into policies and programmes, strengthening participation of women in decision-making and implementation processes, ensuring coordination between national authorities and women’s civil society groups, collecting sex and age disaggregated data.

Other key global developments acknowledging consensus on the importance of gender mainstreaming in SALW control:

- The UN Secretary General’s (UNSG) latest **Disarmament Agenda** – launched this year seeks to generate fresh perspectives and explore areas where serious dialogue is required to bring disarmament back to the heart of common efforts for peace and security. It recognizes the role of gender-responsive disarmament and arms control in reducing violence against women and girls in both public and private spheres and the gendered dimension of arms;
- The **EU’s Strategy** against illicit Firearms, SALW and their Ammunition adopted in November 2018 acknowledges incorporating gender in SALW-control projects and actions as a guiding principle of the Strategy;

- **UNSG’s latest report** on small arms to the Security Council recognizes the importance of integrating gender in all cycles of small arms control;
- **MOSAICS** (ISACS) module on “Women, men and the gendered nature of SALW” incorporates the guiding principles for mainstreaming gender in small arms control;
- **A Call to Action** On Gender and Small Arms Control - by Civil Society Organization - urges a thorough inclusion of gender perspectives in all small arms control activities, in all settings and at all levels.

BEST PRACTICES FROM SOUTH EAST EUROPE

SEESAC is providing technical assistance to governments in South East Europe to translate these global commitments into the local context. One concrete example is the development of action plans by all jurisdictions in the Western Balkans for the implementation of **the Roadmap** for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW and their ammunition in the Western Balkans by 2024 (the ‘Roadmap’).

The Roadmap is South East Europe’s most complex SALW Control exercise and a best practice for translating into action the linkage between the Sustainable Development Goal 16 – Peace, justice and strong institutions and Goal 5 – Gender equality. It was developed by the Western Balkans authorities under the auspices of France and Germany with SEESAC’s technical support. When it comes to mainstreaming gender, this technical support is implemented

through a **gender coach programme, training on gender and SALW, research** and diverse forms of consultative support. The integration of the gender perspective in the implementation of the national action plans for the Roadmap implementation will be carefully monitored and evaluated as a key element to achieve better, sustainable and efficient results.





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

FIRST NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION

- The Government of Serbia submitted the first National Report on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention to GREVIO¹. 260 institutions and organisations at the national, provincial and local levels participated in the development of the report. Report development process was coordinated by the Coordination Body for Gender Equality (CBGE) with the support of UNDP within the Joint Project.
- The report is available on the following link <https://rm.coe.int/grevoiinf-2018-9/16808c1a4e>
- Report will be widely presented to professional public and members of the National, Provincial and Local parliaments to ensure their participation and support to policies and activities on prevention and protection from violence against women.
- Toward effective implementation of the Law on Preventing Domestic Violence UNDP in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Interior is providing support to the police and public prosecutors to effectively implement the Law on Preventing Domestic Violence. During October and November, 150 police officers from Leskovac, Lebane, Medveđa, Vlasotince, Crna Trava, Prijepolje, Priboj,

Nova Varoš, Bor, Negotin and Kladovo were trained to assess risks, collect evidence and conduct procedures that will enable more efficient processing of reported DV cases.

- To encourage institutions to undertake all available procedures and measures to protect the victim and ensure her recovery, regardless of her participation in court proceedings 160 professionals from Leskovac, Lebane, Medveđa, Vlasotince, Crna Trava, Prijepolje, Priboj, Nova Varoš, Bor, Negotin and Kladovo were involved in activities for strengthening multisectoral response to DV. As part of these activities, mentorship support has been provided to the groups for coordination and cooperation related to the implementation of the Law on Preventing Domestic Violence (prosecution counties Bor, Leskovac and Prijepolje).
- The Ministry of Justice in cooperation with UNDP also developed Answers to Frequently Asked Questions and Dilemmas related to the implementation of the Law on Preventing Domestic Violence.

HEALTH-CARE PROTECTION OF THE VICTIMS

- Trainings titled “Health Sector Responses to Gender based Violence” were organized, prepared and delivered in cooperation between Ministry of Health, Center for Women’s Health Promotion and UNFPA, for health care providers in Zlatibor and Bor on 25 – 27 June 2018, and 27-29 November 2018 respectively. Over 40 health care professionals from primary and secondary health care institutions from Zlatibor, Bor, Zajecar, Pirot and Pcinjski regions enhanced their knowledge on how to recognize and respond to GBV. Borski district was systematically chosen in cooperation with UNDP, as a follow up on UNDP activity - the organization of a multi-sectoral training for domestic violence.
- With UNICEF support, a new Special working group on protection of children from violence has been formed by the Ministry of Health. Also, a new protocol for the health system protection of children from violence (VAC Protocol) and the accompanying electronic database adjusted to the new VAC Protocol was presented to teams from the health institutions around Serbia on the International Day for protection of children from violence, 19 November 2018.
- The Guideline for the special protocol for the health system for protection of children from violence is being updated referencing the new VAC protocol (that among other changes, particularly targets gender-based violence and family violence as well as linkages between protection of children and protection of women/mothers from violence). The final version is expected in February 2019.
- Capacity building of four regional health inter-sectoral teams with inter-sectoral representation (Belgrade, Nis, Novi Sad and Kragujevac) on the new VAC special protocol inclusive of GBV and family violence is planned for 6-8 December 2018.

¹ GREVIO is the independent expert body responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence ([Istanbul Convention](#))



DATA COLLECTION

With support of UNICEF and UNDP, National Institute for Social Protection is developing software, which should guide Social Welfare Centres (SWCs) through all actions and procedures in managing reported cases of violence in the family and intimate partner relations.

Women from vulnerable groups - Toward greater accessibility of services

- UN Women in cooperation with the Provincial Secretariat for Social Protection, Demography and Gender Equality widely presented a Study on the awareness of experts, attitudes and responses to VaW among vulnerable groups, as well as identification and response to specific forms of VaW. The study showed that after receiving a training developed within the Joint Project, professionals became capacitated to respond to the identified needs of women from vulnerable groups and to identify and institutionally respond to sexual violence, rape, stalking and sexual harassment, in accordance with the Istanbul Convention.
- During the first half of 2019, it is planned to use the developed training programmes and organise trainings for professionals in additional 10 municipalities, to work with women survivors from marginalised groups, as well as address specific forms of violence.
- In the future period, project activities will also focus on the organisation of case conferences, or multisectoral reviews of reported cases of violence in 10 selected

municipalities. These activities include the development of methodology for organising case conferences and expert support to professionals working on VaW cases among vulnerable groups. The aim of the case conferences is to support professionals to provide efficient services to women from vulnerable groups and women victims of specific forms of violence. At least 10 case conferences should respond to the challenges encountered by the professionals.

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

- There is no mechanism at the national level that would enable systematic monitoring of effects of the measures taken to prevent violence against children and students in educational institutions. In order to develop a mechanism to monitor violence in schools aimed at supporting schools to combat violence, UNICEF in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development conducted an analysis of data collection and reporting on violence against children in educational institutions. Joint partnership with the Ministry of Education is planned and it is aimed at establishing functional network of support to schools in developing safe environment for children and preventing violence. This proposal includes the establishment of the network of 100 external advisors to prevent and monitor violence and discrimination in schools and pre-school institutions, compil-

ing and revision of the materials in the School against Violence Programme, to be used by educational institutions, and development of a software to monitor violence and discrimination in educational institutions.

- The school component of the project was implemented in four mentoring and eight partnering schools (in Belgrade, Sombor, Zaječar and Vranje), selected with the approval of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development. A capacity building programme on different tools and techniques to prevent VaC was developed, and a pool of mentors to be involved in the dissemination of knowledge to pre-school teachers, pedagogues and psychologists was established. Guidance and training programme for professionals from eight partnering schools are prepared so they can integrate GBV projects/activities in their annual school plans. 200 teachers from eight partnering schools were trained to implement GBV prevention programmes in schools. So far, a total of 12 workshops were realised with partnering primary schools using the Manual for Gender Based Violence Prevention, created within the School without Violence project and 2 actions promoting GE. The workshops and actions included a total of 1,025 students from the above-mentioned primary and secondary schools.
- Four pre-school institutions from Belgrade, Sombor, Vranje and Zaječar have participated in the program Kindergarten as a Safe and Enabling Environment

for Learning and Development, that promotes safe, secure and stimulating environment in which each child will have equal opportunities for learning and develop competencies that are important for growing up and living in a democratic civil society (respect for others, cooperation, proactivity, accountability and similar). Along with trainings, mentorship support has been provided to the staff in selected pre-school institutions, so they can apply the program in practice – working with children and parents, the knowledge and skills acquired as well as create an environment respecting diversity and promoting equal chances for all.

Prevention of violence through the work with youth

- UNFPA conducted an Analysis of the correlation between gender stereotypes and gender-based division of men's and women's social roles with gender-based violence, and the Analysis will be presented in December 2018;
- UNFPA established cooperation with CSOs to empower young girls from Kikinda, Belgrade, Novi Pazar, Jagodina and Presevo.

Working with men and boys in Serbia

- International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES), the most comprehensive survey carried out to date on men's attitudes and practices on a wide variety of topics related to gender equality as well as women's opinions and reports of their own experiences has been widely promoted after May 2018.



- After the central event- Belgrade conference on 17 May, five local conferences were organized in June in Novi Sad, Cacak, Krusevac, Kragujevac and Nis. Conferences gathered representatives of the ministries, local institutions, international organizations, national organizations and NGOs, experts, academics, activists, and sparked interesting debates regarding data and its further use.
- IMAGES Serbia is based on a nationally representative sample, which included 1,060 men and 540 women. IMAGES was developed by UNFPA, Ministry of Youth and Sports and Center E8 within the framework of the Joint Programme Integrated Response to Violence Against Women and Girls in Serbia II, with additional support of Promundo, CARE International Balkans and OAK Foundation.
- IMAGES Serbia is available at <http://images.edu.rs/en/>
- In Novi Sad and Kragujevac, Standards for Work with Perpetrators are being piloted, through cooperation between women support services and Work with Perpetrator Programmes. The piloted programme is based on stopping violence by working with perpetrators, strengthening their victims and controlling the risks of repeated violence.
- Cooperation with CSOs and the media Six helplines received grant to provide support to survivors of violence at the local level– Fenomena from Kraljevo, AS-TRA Belgrade, Human Rights Committee Vranje, Osvit Niš, Zrenjanin Educational Centre, Out of Circle Vojvodina.
- After the establishment of the group Journalists against Violence, a series of articles were published, reporting ethically on VaW. In the future period, the group will work on developing guidelines for responsible media reporting on DV, mobilising local media for responsible reporting on VaW and working with media students. Special planned activities will focus on raising awareness of violence that women journalists are exposed to in and out of their offices, as well as strengthening the group to be a source of support and safety to women journalists exposed to violence.



CHILD MARRIAGE

Child marriage – marriage under the age of 18 – has garnered increasing global attention in the last decade in recognition of the devastating consequences it has on girls and the scale of the problem. An estimated 14.2 million girls worldwide marry before the age of 18 each year. Over 700 million women alive today were child brides.

In Serbia, child marriage is rare within the general population, concentrated mostly among poorer families in rural areas and girls with restricted access to education, but is very frequent in Roma settlements, where more than half of girls are married before the age of 18.

Until recently the issue of child marriage was paid little attention in Serbia. As a consequence, the process of tackling the many factors that drive child marriage in Serbia is in its infancy. Mechanisms for collecting reliable data, identifying girls at risk of child marriage, and evidence-based practices to prevent child marriage and provide support to girls that are already married must be developed.

Recognising the scale of the problem, the Coordination Body for Gender Equality and UNICEF signed a Memorandum of Understanding to support joint efforts to prevent child marriage, among other priorities to improve the well-being of most vulnerable children and young people.

To that end, a national Coalition to end child marriage will soon be established, that will be co-chaired by the Coordination Body for Gender Equality.

As part of these efforts, UNICEF supports the implementation of multi-sectoral programmes to prevent child marriage, in cooperation with local partners in Novi Bečej, Belgrade and Pirot. This includes Roma women's organisations, relevant national and local institutions in the sectors of social welfare and education. Baseline data on drivers and determinants of child marriage in these targeted localities have informed the development of interventions and will be continuously monitored to evaluate impact of interventions.

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

With the financial support from Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM), UNICEF supported the integration and/or scaling up of gender-based violence (GBV) interventions in partnership with state authorities and civil society partners. UNICEF's support focused on providing safe spaces for girls and women and reaching out to men and boys who are increasingly on the move and facing GBV risks. More than 800 men, boys, girls and men participated in GBV prevention activities. Further, 108 frontline workers from state institutions and non-governmental organizations were capacitated on GBV. In addition, 70 partners participated in a dedicated training on prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and received further support for the development of their policies.

Following a positive evaluation of this programme, a second phase started in September 2018, with the continuous support from BPRM. UNICEF will reinforce the achievements of the previous period, and together with partners, will continue to support safe spaces for women and girls, as well as supporting the integration GBV prevention and response into existing programmes of child protection actors.

Finally, in September 2018, with the support of the global reference group, UNICEF organised a regional workshop to roll-out the Guidelines for Integrating Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings in Belgrade, with participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Bulgaria. Thirty-four representatives from national authorities in charge of refugee/migrant affairs, national social welfare and protection institutions, UN and national NGO service providers attended the workshop to identify GBV contingency measures and plan of actions for the coming months.





SUPPORT FOR WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

Within the joint efforts to strengthen the oversight function and transparency of the parliaments in Serbia, the Swiss Government and UNDP pay special attention to empowering and supporting women parliamentarians and their networks.

Most recently, in cooperation with the Parliamentary Secretariat, Office for IT and e-government and Women's Parliamentary Network (WPN) members, UNDP assisted WPN to design and prepare content for the network's web site <https://zpmserbija.wordpress.com/>. The site brings visitors the WPN news, offers depository of most important documents and relevant links, and gives access to a multimedia gallery (video and photo materials) from various WPN events. There is also a Blog segment, in English, for easier sharing among the international audience. The new web site is hosted by the Government's Office for IT, thus ensuring its sustainability. In addition to the internet site, UNDP supported Twitter account: <https://twitter.com/zpmserbija> is already followed by almost 400 individuals, institutions and organizations and focused on increasing the participation of women in the public life and politics, their economic empowerment and education, as well as on prevention of domestic violence.

On October 19, 2018, the 6th National Conference of the Women's Parliamentary Network, titled "Women building futures" was held in Belgrade, supported by the Swiss Government, OSCE and UNDP. The event gathered over 400 women parliamentarians from all over Serbia, who discussed the impact of digitalization and Climate Change on Gender Equality, how

to progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, as well as combating discrimination against women in labor relations and violence against women: implementation of the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence. The Conference keynote speakers included Maja Gojković, the Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, Ursula Laubli, Embassy of Switzerland/Head of Swiss Cooperation Office, Andrea Orizio, Head of OSCE Mission to Serbia and Steliana Nedera, Deputy Resident Representative UNDP Serbia.

Also in October, in partnership with the WPN, UNDP organized a workshop to strengthen local women MPs from three counties in South Serbia. Topics covered included: women's political participation, role of women in politics from legislators' point of view, communication models and conflict management. During the workshop, a self-assessment was conducted in order **to evaluate the gender sensitivity of parliaments**, by using the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) toolkit for parliaments with their approval.

UNDP also supported the Freja Forum 2018 upon the request of the WPN and Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Serbia, held at the National Assembly in Belgrade from 9-11 November. Participants included representatives of the national and governments from the region and the EU, Civil Society Organizations and private sector, for example Association of Business Women in Serbia. They discussed equal opportunities, democracy and the challenges of the digital future through seminars, workshops and informal meetings.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT PROJECT – INDEPENDENT LIFE

Within the regional project Promoting Inclusive Labour Market Solutions in the Western Balkans, UNDP supported the Human Rights Committee and Vranje Helpline to employ women survivors of domestic and intimate-partner violence in Vranje, by empowering survivors and sensitizing employers for the issue of domestic violence and encouraging them to provide support and employment to women who survived domestic violence. The project was implemented from January to June 2018.

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.



SEXUAL ORIENTATION



45 countries

criminalize same-sex relationships between women. For men, same-sex relationships are forbidden in **72 countries**.

* As of 2017





UNHCR and its partners provided technical and personnel field assistance, ensuring that refugee, asylum-seeker and stateless women had access to legal consultation, procedures to report sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), as well as educational, livelihoods and recreational activities. UNHCR's Protection and Durable Solutions Unit worked on the protection of refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced and stateless persons in Serbia, with a specific focus on vulnerable individuals such as women survivors of SGBV, unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), and members of the LGBT community.

LEGAL AWARENESS AND CONSULTATION

- Belgrade Centre for Human Rights (BCHR) provided legal assistance to asylum-seekers in Serbia including legal counselling, representation, and monitoring on the asylum procedures. 3 awareness-raising workshops on asylum procedure in Serbia, prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and domestic violence with woman and girls were conducted in Principovac and Adaševci transit centers and Bogovadja Asylum Centers by 2 BCHR female legal officers.
- Crisis Response and Policy Center (CRPC) and Humanitarian Center for Integration and Tolerance (HCIT) provided counselling on asylum/general information dissemination and referrals, as well as cultural mediation and interpretation.

- Danish Refugee Council (DRC) conducted workshops on asylum in Serbia, anti-discrimination policies and practices, prevention of SGBV, and prevention of trafficking. Women asylum seekers were provided with legal counselling on how to seek asylum and protection against sexual and gender-based violence in Serbia.
- Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) survivors were provided with legal consultation, counselling and legal representation at state authorities' level.
- UNHCR held Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) sessions at asylum and reception centres with women, men and adolescents and distributed PSEA leaflets and posters to all partners.

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT FOR WOMEN REFUGEES

- SGBV cases were provided with individual counselling, referrals for specialized services and follow-up.
- International Aid Network (IAN), Psycho-social Innovation Network (PIN) and Sigma Plus provided women and girls with counselling, psychosocial support and relevant information on the existing services and available support mechanisms.
- PIN provided mental health and psychosocial support including the implementation of cultural and gender sensitive activities with particular attention to empowering women, girls and other vulnerable groups to enhance their resilience and capacity to cope with hardships.

- IAN provided specialised psycho-social support through individual and group activities as well as psychiatric assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers in order to improve their mental health and organised community based empowerment and mental health awareness workshops for women leaders in Krnjaca asylum center and Bosilegrad and Obrenevac reception centres.

BORDER MONITORING AND LEGAL AWARENESS FOR WOMEN REFUGEES AT TRANSIT POINTS

- HCIT counselled women on practical information and legal aid, and vulnerable women and children were identified by HCIT field teams as part of groups who were pushed back from neighbouring countries after attempting to irregularly cross borders.
- Through Border Protection Monitoring ITS, arrivals to Serbia from Macedonia were reported by UNHCR. Legal counselling about asylum was provided to all women and girls that arrived to reception facilities in the south of Serbia.

EDUCATION, LIVELIHOODS, AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Education and recreational activities were organised for women and girls in various government-run facilities countrywide. The women and girls participated in various activities ranging from English and Serbian language, IT, arts and crafts, sports, yoga, hair-dressing, and sewing courses.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING



71%

of all trafficking victims worldwide are women and girls.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING



Nearly

3 out of 4

trafficked women and girls are trafficked for sexual exploitation.





- Refugee women and girls were informed about UNHCR's Cash Based Assistance programme with particular attention to single mothers, and refugee women were provided with the needed equipment for livelihood activities.

SGBV IDENTIFICATION AND FOLLOW-UP

- SGBV cases were identified and reported by UNHCR and partner staff through protection monitoring.
- Survivors were provided with legal assistance, accommodation (as appropriate), registration for intention to seek asylum certificates (ISACs) and medical/psychological assistance. The follow-up of previous identified cases was conducted to monitor the situation of the respective survivors and provide assistance as required.
- All cases were referred to the centre management and outreach social workers of the Centre for Social Work.
- UNHCR conducted confidential interviews, monitored relevant referrals and follow-up activities and worked on exploring possibilities for durable solutions.

PROTECTION AND WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN

- From 30 October to 2 November, UNHCR held a "Seminar on the Position of Unaccompanied and Separated Children in the Asylum Procedure" for government and partner stakeholders.
- UASC were identified and referred to partners for the required assistance, includ-

ing appointing a guardian, and family reunification.

- IDEAS strengthened the child protection system in Serbia for refugees and migrant children through individualized approach, support to guardianship service for UASCs, as well as development for cultural competent practices in education, social protection and health.
- INDIGO provided psychological first aid and support for refugee girls and identified and assisted extremely vulnerable girls for referrals to other actors. INDIGO provided creative and educational workshops, group discussions, social and educational games in Preševo, Bujanovac and Vranje reception centres.
- DRC implemented socio-cultural workshops in Banja Koviljača and Krnjača asylum centres in order to develop social skills of refugees, asylum-seeking and migrant children as well as encourage their active participation in local environment and organized cultural activities for UASC (trips to museums, movies, etc.) Additionally, DRC conducted educational and recreational activities (languages, supplementary lessons) for refugee, asylum-seeking and migrant children.
- PIN conducted more than 30 workshops (educational, psychoeducational, occupational, creative) and counselling sessions with girls and boys with the aim to develop various life skills (cognitive, emotional, social), increase knowledge, prevent risky behaviours, and ensure children the opportunity to relax and express themselves in the safe environment.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS AT RISK OF STATELESSNESS IN SERBIA

- Praxis worked with stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness in Serbia, mainly with members of Roma population through the provision of free legal assistance, information dissemination and counselling in individual cases. The objective was continuation of raising awareness about the consequences of child, early and forced marriages (CEFM) among the school children, along with the engagement in the prevention and elimination of harmful practices.
- 45 women were granted or confirmed their nationalities with assistance provided by Praxis.
- Praxis organised activities, including 3 awareness-raising workshops, with the aim to educate school children on the practice of CEFM and its harmful effects. They were attended by more than 120 girls and boys from 5th and 6th grades in 3 out of 4 selected primary schools in Serbia.
- In October 2018, two consultative meetings with representatives of the competent authorities were held in Pozarevac and Belgrade to provide them with practical knowledge about CEFM, calling for responsible action within their mandate and better coordination among relevant institutions on the prevention and elimination of CEFM.

CHILD MARRIAGE

More than



4 in 10

girls in West and Central Africa were married before age 18.

CHILD MARRIAGE



650 million

women and girls alive today were married before their 18th birthday.



INTERNATIONAL DAYS

International Day of Rural Women

Together with the Coordination Body for Gender Equality and the Delegation of the European Union to Serbia, UN Women organized an event on October 15 in the village of Stanisic, near Sombor, Vojvodina aimed at mapping the key issues rural women in Serbia are facing as well as finding models to tackle it. The host of the event was the women's association "Udahni Zivot" who was supported within the EU-funded project "Support to priority actions for gender equality".

A few dozens of stakeholders gathered to hear Ljiljana Gusic, president of the organization, who presented the works of art and different crafts made within the organization by women and their children. She went on to introduce other women, members of the organization, and introduced us with their work and activities in different fields but all aimed at improving the situation of rural women in the area. "Udahni Zivot" is organizing different trainings and seminars in organic production so that these women can specialize in a trending field and become competitive in the market.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

Under the global theme "Orange the world: Hear Me Too", UN Women in Serbia again joined the UNiTE campaign "16 days of activism against gender-based violence" with unique virtual reality experience. As many as 150 people gathered at the National Museum of Serbia on November 29 for an "orange" premiere of the first film in virtual reality on violence against women in Serbia entitled "Everything is alright".

Zorana Mihajlovic, Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Coordination Body for Gender Equality, Alia El-Yassir, UN Women Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, and Mateja Norcic Stamcar, Deputy Head of EU Delegation to Serbia, were the first to indulge into the virtual reality experience and witness a scene of psychological violence towards a woman over text messages.

Following the kick off event, the film continued its life throughout the campaign on four different locations in the city - National Museum of Serbia, Ikea store in Belgrade downtown, "Kombank Dvorana" cinema and StartIT. The campaign was organised with joint forces of UN Women in Serbia, Coordination Body for Gender Equality and EU Delegation to Serbia within the project "Support to Priority Actions for Gender Equality".

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Presentation of the Special Report on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for Women with Disability, developed jointly with Commissioner for the Protection of Equality and Out of circle Vojvodina, Belgrade, Kragujevac and Novi Sad (exact dates TBC)**
- **Presentation of the Analysis of the correlation between gender stereotypes and gender-based division of social roles between women and men with gender-based violence, developed jointly with Ministry of Youth and Sports and NGO Atina (exact date TBC)**
- **12 December 2018, The Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Reproductive Health Workshop**
- **Marking of the International Women's Day on March 8**