



WOMEN AND MEN IN SERBIA: AT A GLANCE

KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN SERBIA

Serbia continued to make slow but stable progress in improving the representation of women in political and public life in the central government and national parliament. Following the 2022 election, out of 250 members of the parliament, 91 of them (36.4%) are women. The number remains higher than the regional average of women in parliament (25.8%), the average in EU countries (around 31%), as well as the global average (26.4%). The newly elected government, which was officially announced on 26 October 2022, has 28 ministries, out of which 9 are headed by a woman (32%). This is down from the previous government, in which 10 out of 23 cabinet members (43%) were women. At the local level, however, Serbian women remain under-represented in leadership positions. The number of women who are municipal presidents or city mayors remains very low. In 2022, out of 145 municipalities in Serbia, 17 have women municipal presidents (11.7%), while 5 out of 29 city mayors (17%) are women.

On 31 October, the newly formed Government appointed Minister of Culture Maja Gojkovic as the president of the Coordination Body for Gender Equality and other members of the Body which then on 15 November held its first constitutional session and continued to deliver on its mandate.

Moreover, Serbia got Gender Equality Impact Test, as an important instrument for introducing gender equality into the decision-making process. The application of this test assesses whether the proposed law or other regulation will have different impact on women and men, i.e. whether it will have a positive or negative impact on gender equality. Based on the conducted gender equality test, the proponent looks at the potential regulatory impact on gender equality, assesses whether it is necessary to determine corrective measures that will mitigate the potential negative regulatory impact on gender equality, or decides to conduct a detailed regulatory impact assessment in terms of gender equality.

The public was awash again in scandal related to publishing an interview with a serial rapist in September. It started as a howl of rage against a pro-government tabloid which published the interview and then turned into wider demonstrations for women's rights every Friday since 28 September. Women in Belgrade took to the streets in anger requesting significant legislative and governmental change.





COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

SAFER PUBLIC PLACES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Within the project „Safeguarding Women and Girls in Serbia“ funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), UN Women and the Women’s Architectural Society organized a two-day training on the Application of the Women Safety Audit Tool (WSAT) at the local level. On September 7th and 9th, 50 participants from Sombor, Kragujevac, Kruševac, Niš and Novi Pazar - representatives of the local gender equality mechanisms, CSOs, healthcare and social welfare sectors, urban planning and construction services, inspection services, communal police and public enterprise responsible for maintenance of public spaces, had the opportunity to learn about the concept of Women Safety Audit Walks, the objectives thereof and steps in organizing a WSAT.

In order to demonstrate the application of the WSAT in concrete public city spaces, the UN Women and the Women’s Architectural Society conducted the five Women Safety Audit Walks on September 12-20, 2022, in the same five cities. The experts demonstrated to the participants characteristics of spaces that contribute to the feeling of insecurity, especially for local women and girls, discussed different regimes of using the visited spaces from the point of view of different vulnerable groups including women, girls, youth, pensioners, people with disabilities and collected personal experiences of participants in the walk. In the discussions following the walks,

the experts developed recommendations for both interventions in space and systemic measures aimed at relevant local authorities, city services and public companies.

ASSISTANCE TO SHELTERS FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN SERBIA

As part of the efforts to strengthen capacity of shelters for victims of domestic and gender-based violence, and the Community of Practice (CoP) created within the project, UN Women partnered with two renowned women’s rights organizations, Atina and Center for Support to Women, which will administer grants and technical assistance to currently 11 operating shelters in Serbia. In end-October, the second meeting of the CoP took place in Vrnjačka Banja in order to inform members of the CoP with the upcoming activities and their timeline. Additionally, on November 16-17, UN Women organized a training for 19 social service professionals in Vrdnik, including those from the CSOs and working in shelters for victims of domestic violence and GBV, on the topic of “Sexual Harassment at the Workplace – Normative Framework, its Application in Practice and Gender Perspective”.

Finally, in order to map the current needs of the 11 shelters and facilitate a more sustainable support for them in the future, UN Women published an E-publication summarizing results of a six-months long field research

called “Specialized service of shelters in Serbia – needs, capacities and funds needed for a long-term and undisrupted functioning”.

STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES IN PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO VAWG IN MONTENEGRO

Under the project ‘Improved Safety of Women in Serbia’, funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and in line with agreed planned activities and set target, UN Women improved technical capacity of the Ministry of Justice of Montenegro to implement special protection measure by providing and delivering software and 100 EMS bracelets for victims and perpetrators within the project “Improved Safety of Women in Serbia”. Also, in partnership with the Ministry, UN Women increased capacities of 30 representatives of the police, judiciary, prosecutors, and centers for social work involved in preventing and responding to gender-based violence against women in Montenegro, to recognize and respond to all forms of gender-based violence against women, including domestic violence and to apply protection measure restraining order through the system for electronic surveillance of convicted persons. During two-day training organized in Budva on 30 November and 1 December 2022, through different case studies, participants learned about all forms of gender-based violence against women, mechanisms, dynamics, and the gendered dimension of domestic

violence, abused women syndrome and perpetrator psychology, as well as about legislative and institutional framework. Police representatives have also increased awareness of the importance of good communication with media about cases of VAWG, including femicide, with the aid of UN Women developed and distributed Brief Note for Police Officers regarding such communication, as it leads to improved media reporting on this important topic, increased public and victim trust in the police, as well as reduction of the possibility that the victim will be hurt again by inappropriate media reporting violating her dignity and slowing down victim’s recovery.

PRESENTATION OF GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON ETHICAL AND NON-DISCRIMINATIVE REPORTING ON VAWG IN THE ONLINE SPHERE

Guidelines and Recommendations on Ethical and Non-Discriminative Reporting on VAWG in the online sphere were presented in National Theatre in Belgrade on 6 December 2022, within the project “Improved Safety of Women in Serbia”. Guidelines were developed in partnership with Belgrade Centre for Human Rights and based on findings from the UN Women’s analyses of media reporting on VAWG on social media, online media monitoring report, feedback and inputs from journalists who attended the focus groups and review of the available codes of practices and



ethics already adopted by the media outlets and associations. Guidelines were presented and a discussion was held between gender equality and media experts, journalists, academia representatives, Commissioner for Protection of Equality, representatives of the Coordination Body for Gender Equality and UN Women. Between these sections actor and actress from the National Theatre read the excerpts from the handbook, in which actual events are presented in online media reports. At the same time, screenshots of comments and reactions to these reports were displayed on the canvas standing behind the participants. This brief analysis showed that online media very often do not respect law or journalistic ethical standards when reporting on VAWG. On that basis, authors provided several important recommendations, mostly addressing importance of respect for the privacy of victims, survivors and their families, continuous learning opportunities for media professionals, avoiding sensationalistic wording and secondary victimization, and introduction ex ante and ex post moderation of the comments.

SUPPORTING RURAL WOMEN ACROSS THE COUNTRY

UN Women continued to provide support to the Commissioner for Protection of Equality (CPE) to raise awareness and confidence of rural women about measures and actors responsible for protection from violence and gender-based discrimination, through extension of partner agreement within the project “Improved Safety of Women in Serbia”. So far,

more than 1.000.000 rural women and men have increased awareness of gender equality, VAWG, and protection mechanisms during continuous media campaign of the CPE with support of UN Women (media appearances, human impact stories, promotional videos, events around marking the International Day of Rural Women etc.) In addition, through specialized training, more than 40 rural women improved their skills to use protection measures from violence in the family and intimate partner relations and were capacitated for starting different types of businesses in agriculture and for self-advocacy. Additionally, 70 representatives of the Local Self Government Units, National Employment Services, Centers for Social Work, NGO-s and media from Moravicki, Raski and Zlatiborski regions, increased their awareness of problems women and girls from rural areas face, including specifically VAW and discrimination, and how to provide the necessary help.

DEVELOPING STANDARDS FOR SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION OF WOMEN WITH EXPERIENCE OF GBV DEVELOPED

Within Phase II of the Regional Programme on Ending Violence against Women in the Western Balkans and Turkey “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds”, final draft of newly developed qualitative (functional) standards for sheltered accommodation of women with experience of GBV has been finalized by NGO Atina. The standards contain an integrated victim-oriented approach in safe houses for women and girls victims of violence and

domestic violence, principles of support for women and girls victims of gender-based violence, as well as inter-agency standards for gender-based violence. In a separate part, the document incorporates explanation of the purpose of the shelter service for women victims of violence, expands the groups of beneficiaries of these services to those “who are left behind”, and points to the basic principles in work when providing this specific service, such as: respect and dignity, confidentiality of personal data, gender sensitivity access, non-discrimination and inclusiveness, the right to independent decision-making and respect for private and family life, safety and security, accessibility and others. It also elaborates in detail the minimum functional standards of the professional procedures, such as informed consent, admission, assessment. The document in addition introduces new steps such as supervision and intervision. It is also completely oriented towards the women and girls themselves in the form of their empowerment, the accompaniment of a trusted person, support in creating a long-term exit strategy, as well as support for women and girls who have survived sexual violence. A special segment refers to support for children, individual and group work with children, as well as work with traumatic experiences. Moreover, Rules on Procedure in Emergency Situations in Shelters for Women and Children, Survivors of Domestic Violence have been drafted with the aim of defining mechanisms for increasing the efficiency of protection and well-being of all involved actors before the occurrence, during the duration and after the end of an emergency situation





– rules that shelters lacked in the Covid-19 outbreak. Last but not least, 43 professionals (38 women and 5 men) from 28 centres for social work, safe houses, centres for development of local services, and civil society organizations from Belgrade, Smederevo, Pancevo, Sombor, Kragujevac, Zrenjanin, Sremska Mitrovica, Kovin, Vranje, Priboj, Niš, Leskovac, Novi Sad, Jagodina and Kikinda enhanced their capacities to respond to real and assessed needs of the survivors of violence, and to improve the overall accessibility and capacities of safe houses. The topics that were specifically covered through the training were sexual violence against women, trauma, traumatic event and symptoms of trauma, as well as the approach and communication with women and children survivors of sexual violence.

STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES TO PROVIDE SOS SERVICES THROUGH SOUND OF SOUL – SOS MOBILE APP.

SOS Network of Vojvodina continued strengthening capacities of CSO professionals to provide SOS services through Sound of Soul – SOS mobile app. In total, 1,013 women have reported violence to 13 partner's organizations in the period March – October 2022 through 928 calls in total, with 252 of them coming through the mobile app. In October 2022, there have been in total 297 applications in active usage. Only in period June – October 2022, 1,962 violence cases were reported. In 13 cases (0.66%) using of

fire arms has been reported. In this period, physical violence was recorded 444 times (22.6%), psychological violence 1207 times (61.5%), sexual violence 103 times (5.2%), and economic violence 208 times (10.7%). In 165 cases (8.4%) violence against children was also reported (45 (27,3%) cases where children are direct victims and 120 (72,7%) cases where children are indirect victims of violence)). In addition, with the support of professionals from EOut of Circle Vojvodina, special attention was paid to improving the skills in instructing women with disabilities how to use digital communication channels to access SOS services, while Guidelines for instructing persons with visual impairment have also been prepared and shared with all partner organizations.

Moreover, having in mind that the fifth periodic report of Serbia is due in March of 2023, the work on the preparation of an independent report for the CEDAW Committee continued through a series of consultative meetings with representatives of women CSOs and individual gender experts. Independent report of the SOS Vojvodina Network to the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee) on the occasion of the Fifth Periodic Report of the Republic of Serbia, for the period 2018-2022 has been prepared and finalized in January 2023. Independent report, covering all recommendations previously issued to Serbia, has been publicly presented on December 9, 2022, within the 16 Days of Activism against VAWG campaign with UN Women support. The report is to be shared with CEDAW in March 2023.

ESTABLISHED DATABASE OF LOCAL FREE LEGAL AID (FLA)

Programme partner Association Fenomena, established a database of local free legal aid (FLA) offices in local administrations / municipalities across Serbia was established. Up to the end of the reporting period, the database provides updated information related to contact persons / offices in 76 local communities.

The mentoring program for students from three faculties started, preceded by the call at faculties and forming the groups of students. In total, 60 students registered to attend the mentoring program - 19 students registered at Union Law Faculty in Belgrade, 26 students registered at Law Faculty in Kragujevac and 15 students registered at Law Faculty in Novi Pazar. Two mentors were appointed for each of the three groups of students in Belgrade, Kragujevac and Novi Pazar Law Faculties.

Programme partner Roma Association of Roma Women Osvit has also started working on increasing the professional capacities and number of professional staff engaged in free legal aid service provision to Roma women, in cooperation with the Faculty of Law in Nis. Gathering data from the field to analyse to what extent local communities are familiar with the LFL covered three rural areas (Matejevac, Niška Banja and Kamenica), a Roma neighborhood and a public space in the city centre. About 150 questionnaires were filled out, which showed that about 90% of respondents did not have any information about the possibilities of using/obtaining free legal aid. During the field survey, each respondent





received a flyer informing them on the possibility of using free legal aid if needed (150 women). The licensed SOS service continued with continuous support to women who experienced violence. From September 1 to November 30, 2022, Osvit received 40 calls through which beneficiaries were informed about their rights, legal framework and the competences of institutions for their protection.

Through work of CSO Victimology Society of Serbia VDS, additional 19 (12 females and 7 males) professionals (members of GCC) have been trained for working with victims of gender-based violence, and implementing international standards on victim support and protection particularly focusing on working with victims in crisis situations, while 76 professionals (62 females and 14 males) are trained for assessing victims' needs and potential risks, and for developing individual plans of support and protection in line with victims' needs, rights, and interests, through a series of 4-day training sessions organised by CSO Victimology Society of Serbia VDS.

The Handbook on mapping victims' needs and developing individual plans of support and protection of victims was published and disseminated to all GCCs involved in the project activities. Recommendations and project results were presented at the VDS annual conference entitled 25 years of standing-up for victims' rights, which was organized on 25th November 2022. One thematic session was dedicated to the project. It was entitled Protection of victims of domestic violence and recommendations for its improvement. The focus was on considering the role of GCC in response to domestic violence, exchange of experiences and challenges that groups face in practice and recommendations for improving the work of groups and the overall response to domestic violence.

The final **research on successful models of economic re-integration of women survivors of violence from marginalized groups**, with a proposed best-fit model adapted to the Serbian context has been finalized during the summer of 2022 by CSO Roma Women Center Bibija. The model contains an introduction, situational analysis, position of Roma women

in Serbia, normative and strategic framework, strategic approach to economic integration of Roma women in the European Union, models of economic integration of Roma women in Spain, Hungary, Slovakia, Croatia, Great Britain, Italy, Romania, Bulgaria, and Finland. Model contains information on integrated social and economic services, conditional cash transfers. The proposed model is very broad and based on number of detailed described principles that allows adjustment to different LSGs, their level of development and social context. Following successfully implemented activities, Roma Women's Centre "Bibija" organized the final event at the "Medija Centar" in Belgrade on October 11, 2022, with the aim of presenting the project's results to wider public. The main goal of the event was the presentation and promotion of the Model of Economic Reintegration of Roma Women Survivors of Violence and the achieved results, findings and recommendations resulting from the project.





GENDER RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE

IMPLEMENTATION OF GENDER EQUALITY TEST

Under the EU funded project ‘Support To Priority Actions For Gender Equality In Serbia II’, UN Women continued to support integration and implementation of the EU and national gender equality commitments in Serbia through improving legal and strategic framework for gender equality and capacities of the national gender machinery, integration of the gender perspective and principles into the national policies, EU funds programming and monitoring and support to CSOs to implement gender transformative initiatives. In cooperation with Republic Secretariat for Public Policies (RSPP), UN Women supported the national institutions in the implementation of Gender Equality Test assessing the draft legal documents. As part of this support, 44 civil servants from nine ministries increased their capacities to implement the Gender Equality Test, through two training sessions organized by UN Women in partnership with the RSPP. Besides training for civil servants, study visit to Sweden (24 - 28 October 2022) was organized with the aim to strengthen the capacities of the national administration to effectively lead gender responsive governance, with the focus on gender mainstreaming of the planning documents. Participants (5 women, 5 men) were gender focal points from the relevant ministries and civil servants from Republic Secretariat for Public Policy, Coordination Body for Gender Equality, Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue, Ministry

of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs. By the end of the study visit, participants exchanged experiences and discussed with key development actors in Sweden relevant in planning and development of gender equality at national level. They identified concrete actions and activities they will undertake in their respective institutions towards implementing the gender responsive governance upon their return.

INTEGRATION OF GENDER PERSPECTIVE INTO THE STRUCTURAL FUNDS PROGRAMMING

Ministry of European Integration learned more about leading and coordinating Serbia EU negotiation process in the area related to Management of the Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund through the study visit to Portugal. This capacity building activity led to strengthening the knowledge, skills, and capacities on how to support future institutional set-up and management of the Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund and implementation of the Action Plan for Chapter 22 and how to ensure integration of gender perspective into the Structural Funds programming. With the aim to facilitate exchange of knowledge and sharing of best practices on gender mainstreaming in the EU integration process between relevant institutions from the Western Balkans, national gender machineries representatives and civil servants participated in the Regional Gender Equality Facility meeting in Istanbul in Octo-

ber 2022. Participants have received knowledge and information about entry points for gender mainstreaming in EU integration process and the related tools and instruments, have raised awareness about the importance of better absorption IPA III funds and EU acquis, have discussed the best practices and established quality network.

SUPPORT THROUGH SMALL GRANTS TO 11 CSOS AND 10 LSGS

In the reporting period 2,694 women across Serbia directly benefited from support through small grants to 11 CSOs (Zrenjanin Educational Center; Handcrafts of Luznica – Women Ethno Center; Citizens Association Laris; Ethno network, Association for Development of Creativity, Women’s Forum Prijepolje, Women’s Association of Kolubara District, Association of Business Women Serbia, Women’s Entrepreneurship Academy, RES Foundation, and Center E8) and 10 LSGs (Ćićevac, Arandjelovac, Užice, Priboj, Zaječar, Bela Palanka, Vlasotince, Bojnik, Surdulica and Golubac. Women increased their capacities and skills in different areas and received direct support for the development of their businesses (target for the project is 3,000 which will certainly be exceeded). As part of the economic empowerment measures 2,694 rural, Roma and/or unemployed women across Serbia have increased knowledge on the entrepreneurship, innovation, organic production, development of business from idea to business plan and increased their digital skills and skills for

sewing, weaving, cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants etc. 252 women (including women from 11 rural women’s associations) received material support and equipment for supporting establishment of their businesses and implementation of the business plans. As an additional result of the empowerment programme, 32 women were employed and 6 women received financial business support from LSG budgets for start-up or further development of their business.

SERBIA WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP EXPO SATELLITE EVENT

Support was provided to organization of the Serbia satellite event of the Women Entrepreneurship Expo 2022. In total 160 women entrepreneurs across Serbia and neighboring countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia) participated in the Serbia Women Entrepreneurship Expo satellite event in Belgrade and increased their knowledge for business transformation, innovation in business, potentials for growth and funding sources. More than 50 women from Serbia, BiH and North Macedonia participate at the B2B meetings, while 50 women entrepreneurs improved their knowledge regarding leadership and management skills of female business leaders and company managers.



ENHANCED COOPERATION OF GENDER MECHANISMS AT ALL LEVELS

As part of the project activities, UN Women supports establishment and/or enhancement of the cooperation between women's CSOs and institutions, especially gender mechanisms at all levels. In the reporting period 6th roundtable was organized in Novi Sad in partnership with Women Entrepreneurship Academy on the topic „From unpaid to visible and paid women's work“. Roundtable gathered 24 representatives of CSOs and Local authorities from Subotica, Sombor, Vrbas, Kula, Bac, Backa Palanka, Beocin as well as experts from Provincial secretariat for Economy and Tourism and Guaranty Fund of the AP Vojvodina. Following the presentation of the analysis “Economic value of unpaid work in the household and unpaid services in the community at the local level”, CSOs representatives involved in the project presented the situation on the ground, while the representatives of the LSGs presented the available community programmes and cooperation with CSOs in this matter. The APV Guarantee Fund presented their support program for women who want to start a business and for those women business who are less than 3 years in operation and cooperation with LGUs that are involved in the project. An agreement between GF APV and the municipalities of Beocin, Kula and Vrbas were signed to allocate local budget funds to subsidize loans for business establishment for unemployed youth and women. At the provincial level, through further collaboration with the

Provincial Development Agency, UN Women provided support in gender mainstreaming of Autonomous Province of Vojvodina Development Plan, securing that gender perspective is included and taken into consideration in all the envisaged phases of its development.

CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING (GRB)

In the project Transformative Financing for Gender Equality: towards more Transparent, Inclusive and Accountable Governance in the Western Balkans, funded by SIDA, GRB implementation continues to expand in line with the Budget System Law, Gender Equality Law and Annual GRB Plans issued by the Minister of Finance and Heads of Finances at local level. National, provincial and local governments continue to apply GRB and integrate gender equality principles in public financing processes, thus improving the position of women and men in various sectors. As a result of cooperation between UN Women, Ministry of Finance and the Provincial Secretariat of Finance, budgets of 73 institutions at national and provincial levels (out of 90) introduced gender perspective in 108 budget programmes and contributed to the improvement of gender equality through 399 budget objectives and more than 750 gender responsive indicators. These institutions include all line ministries and provincial secretariats, as well as independent bodies and commissioners and various directorates.

ESTABLISHED PARTNERSHIPS ON GRB WITH LOCAL SELF- GOVERNMENT UNITS ACROSS SERBIA

At the local level, UN Women established partnership with nine LSGUs across Serbia and provided technical support to initiate or advance GRB and improve their internal procedures through the adoption of Annual GRB plans and establishment of GRB teams. Besides support in gender analysis in various sectors, UN Women conducted comprehensive capacity development, which in the reporting period encompassed 45 councilors and MPs (36 w, 9 m), who gained more in-depth knowledge on gender equality and discrimination and role of public policies in addressing these aspects, the linkages between strategic planning at local level and financing, as well as GRB principles. They also learned more about their role in the process of GRB implementation. As a result, women living in these municipalities will benefit from the various improved or targeted service, with focus on rural women and their economic empowerment through subsidies, as well as women's entrepreneurship and their involvement in tourism. Initiatives budgeted for 2023 could lead to increased involvement of women in sports, increased number of women recipients of energy efficiency support measures, enhanced participation of women in environmental protection, or support to women cultural workers and projects focused on gender equality, to name a few.

UN WOMEN ASSISTANCE TO THE STATE AUDIT INSTITUTION (SAI)

UN Women provided comprehensive technical assistance to the State Audit Institution (SAI), including the organization of study visit, a seminar and info session, all aimed at enhancing their role in GRB implementation and institutionalization. UN Women organized the study visit to Vienna, Austria, for SAIs from Serbia and BIH with the purpose to strengthen capacities and provide an opportunity for representatives of SAIs to learn from the experience of Austrian stakeholders about possibilities to mainstream gender into auditing processes, implement separate gender audits and prepare for a parallel regional gender audit with focus on SDG 5 – Gender Equality, in 2023. UN Women also organized a one-day GRB training for 26 SAI employees (20 women, 6 men) who increased their knowledge about their role in GRB institutionalization and how to audit more in-depth the implementation of GRB by budget users at all governmental levels. In order to support this process, UN Women developed a checklist for compliance and financial audit in collaboration with SAI.

UN Women developed two GRB movies, focused on showcasing the impact of GRB on the economic position of women, to increase public awareness of the potential use of GRB as a tool to promote gender equality. The movies included interviews with rural women, as well as LSGUs representatives in Arandjelovac and Nis. The first movie focused on LSGUs support to economic empowerment



of women and women's entrepreneurship through support to the establishment of women's organization in Arandjelovac and financial support to their entrepreneurial activities. The other one focused on LS-GUs work aimed at improving the economic position of rural women living in Nis and support to their initiatives.

INNOVATION

- Partnership with youth and their role as drivers of change became increasingly important. A "Youth Against Violence" Coalition was formed comprising 25 representatives. They are now empowered to recognize, report and advocate against gender-based violence, and influence policy making and planning system in Serbia. This was made possible due to capacity building provided by the National Youth Council of Serbia, with the support of UN Women. Members from the Coalition attended a Creative Theatre Workshop on violence against women and girls through art, conducted by a famous Serbian actress. (Contribution to SDG 5 and 10) An innovative documentary the-

atre play "Girls" starring eight young amateur actresses sharing their personal stories on growing up as girls in Serbia. The play examines gender roles and stereotypes, girls' beliefs, fears, and hopes and shares a positive message that girls can do anything. The play was produced by Reflektor Teatar and Cultural Center E8. (Contribution to SDG 5 and 10)

- Innovative models of economic reintegration of Roma women survivors of violence created by Roma WCSO Bibija enabled 50 Roma women become economically independent. (Contribution to SDG 5, 8 and 10)
- Support was given to National Academy for Public Administration to institutionalize Gender Responsive Budgeting capacity development through production of 14 GRB video lectures in line with the NAPA's official Learning Programme. They are posted on [NAPA learning platform](#) (item 34) and are available to all civil servants. (Contribution to SDG 5, 8 and 10)
- Cooperation was established with Association of Women Scientists SRNA and organized a Conference on female innovations. (Contribution to SDG 5, 4, 9 and 10)
- Following an assessment "Specialized service safe house in Serbia - needs,

capacities and means for long-term functioning" private companies were approached for funding of safe houses

- Community of Practice for Safe Houses was established. (Contribution to SDG 5, 10, 11 and 16). For the first time, UN Women supported a podcast Tampone Zone which resulted in production of five episodes on women sexual and reproductive health https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v9_HYEGRDFI. First steps were made towards the establishment of a Femicide Watch and an interactive map on femicides in Serbia, Montenegro and Albania was made <https://www.femplatz.org/index.php>. (Contribution to SDG 5, 3, 10 and 16)
- The topic of sport emerged as an innovation. Partnership with Institute for Women's Sport and creation of a video on inclusion of girls in sports that are usually male-dominated https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jpes1f_6-A. (Contribution to SDG 5, and 3)
- UN Women continues using an app Comms Tracker to measure its reach which was recognized as an innovative practice and is planned to be replicated regionally. (Contribution to SDG 5)

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS TEAM



UNPRPD INCEPTION PROJECT SERBIA

As of August 2022, UN Women Office manages the inception phase of a UNCT Serbia joint project on disability, in coordination with RCO, UNDP, OHCHR, UNCEF, ILO, and UNFPA. The project aims to enable full and effective participation of persons with disabilities, ensure the inclusion of marginalized and underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities and address gender inequality and advance the rights of women and girls with disabilities, in line with CRPD, CEDAW and national framework on persons with disabilities and gender equality and women empowerment. The inception phase of the project is a short-term intervention during which UNCT is expected to carry out each of the activities below in the following order over a period of up to 10 months using a multi-stakeholder process and UNPRPD templates and guidance:

- DELIVER AN INDUCTION WORKSHOP – The purpose of the Induction Workshop is to provide basic training on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and disability inclusive SDGs, UN-

PRPD's cross-cutting Approaches, preconditions for disability inclusion, and elements of the situational analysis.

- CONDUCT A SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS – The purpose is to engage stakeholders in a broader analysis on contextual factors affecting CRPD and SDG implementation and the preconditions for disability inclusion in order to inform the design of the UNPRPD programs and ensure they are based on the national needs that respond to national challenges.
- DEVELOP THE FULL PROPOSAL – Drawing on learning from the Induction Workshop and Situational Analysis, the Full Proposal outlines the program outputs, as well as the structure and nature of the multi-stakeholder partnership that will drive the implementation of the program. The first module of the induction workshop on CRPD was held 7-11 November in person. About 30 representatives of public institutions, civil society, and academia, including 8 UN Staff attended the workshop. Among attendees were representatives from: MoLEVSA, National Em-

ployment Services, Serbian Associations Employment, Ministry of Health, Institute for Mental Health, Ministry of Education, Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, academia, Republic Fund for Pension and Health Insurance, Statistical Office, Ombudsman, Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue, Republic Institute for Social Welfare, etc. Sessions covered key areas of CRPD, such as accessibility, employment, education, health, care protection, specialized services. The second workshop module on three cross cutting issues of CRPD - *enabling full and effective participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations; ensuring the inclusion of marginalized and underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities; and addressing gender inequality and advancing the rights of women and girls with disabilities*; - was held online on November 22, 2023. There will be a public call for company/CSO to do the situational analysis in 2023.



PEER MENTORING PROGRAM TO EMPOWER YOUNG PEOPLE LAUNCHED

On January 4, the United Nations in Serbia and the Italian Embassy in Serbia have announced the launch of a new youth mentoring program to promote human rights and youth participation in the development of their communities. The program is funded by the Italian Embassy in Belgrade, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy and it is scheduled to run from January 1 to December 31 2023, with a total budget of 130,000 EUR. The project is part of a wider UN initiative across the region on Youth empowerment for Peace, Development and Trust Building. The project is implemented by the UN Women and UNFPA, in close cooperation with the Youth Advisory Group, and supported by the Resident Coordinator's Office. The role of the YAG is in informing, guiding and implementing key program activities in line with the perspective of the young people, their rights, and needs. This project seeks to expand the opportunities for youth participation at the local level and to support young men and women to become social innovators, leaders, thinkers, and a powerful and informed force for change in their communities and country. The specific objective of the project is to strengthen the role of youth in promotion of youth human rights, gender equality and to increase participation of youth in various aspects of life at local level. The project will

be implemented through a young leadership training and peer mentoring process in which experienced young people (YAG members) will support their peers at the local level to create and implement the initiatives to increase youth participation, promote human rights and create space for social engagement of youth at the local level. Moreover, throughout the peer mentoring process, and duration of the project at large, social media will be used as primary communication channels in order to spread the information about project and the benefits of youth participation to relevant target audiences.

The project will focus on three specific outputs: the leadership skills and capacities of young men and women to promote human rights and youth participation enhanced; protection and promotion of Human Rights, strengthened and increased youth participation at the local level; and youth rights promoted through social media campaign and visibility activities. Following the launch of the project, the first meeting with the YAG was carried out in end-January and the beginning of February in order to familiarize all the partners in the implementation of the project with the goals and outcomes, to prepare the members of the YAG for the upcoming activities and to carry out the necessary coordination. Additionally, the engagement of the experts responsible for development of the training curriculum is currently ongoing.

FUND WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS





BUILDING YOUTH-FRIENDLY CITIES IN A WORLD OF 8 BILLION PEOPLE

UNFPA Eastern Europe and Central Asia organized a Regional Forum for Mayors and Young People from Eastern Europe and Central Asia in Sarajevo in November 2022 that gathered more than 100 participants from 15 countries. This was the first step in creating a forum for cooperation, communication, and promotion of youth-friendly and gender-sensitive policies and spaces in order to develop sustainable cities and municipalities where the potential of every young man or woman will be achieved. Nine members of the Serbian delegation (mayors and representatives of local self-governments from Novi Pazar, Kragujevac, and Obrenovac, members of CSOs) took part. They discussed how to create resilient communities where every person has an equal chance to fulfill their potential regardless of gender, age, or any other identity category.

CHAMPIONING YOUNG PEOPLE'S HEALTH: A JOURNEY TOWARDS THE WELLBEING OF THE 8 BILLION

In 2021 UNFPA worked with the Ministry of Education on developing an internal Manual for education assistants and teachers on how to support students to achieve a competency-responsible attitude towards health, which included material related to gender equality, prevention of gender based violence, and reproductive health. As a follow-up activity in 2022, UNFPA supported a team of experts from Serbia to participate in the regional workshop

named Championing young people's health: a journey towards the well-being of the 8 billion in the Western Balkans countries/territories, held in Skopje, North Macedonia between 20th and 21st November 2022. The aim was to strengthen comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) advocacy and implementation through improved collaboration and sharing of good practices and lessons by bringing together key partners (MoE, public health institutes, NGOs, etc.) and creating a platform for partnership and good practices exchange. Aside from that, the workshop aimed to equip participants with specific knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values that should empower them to: realize the importance of health, well-being, and dignity; develop respectful social and sexual relationships; consider how their choices affect their own well-being and that of others; understand and ensure the protection of their rights throughout their lives; and how CSE advances gender equality.

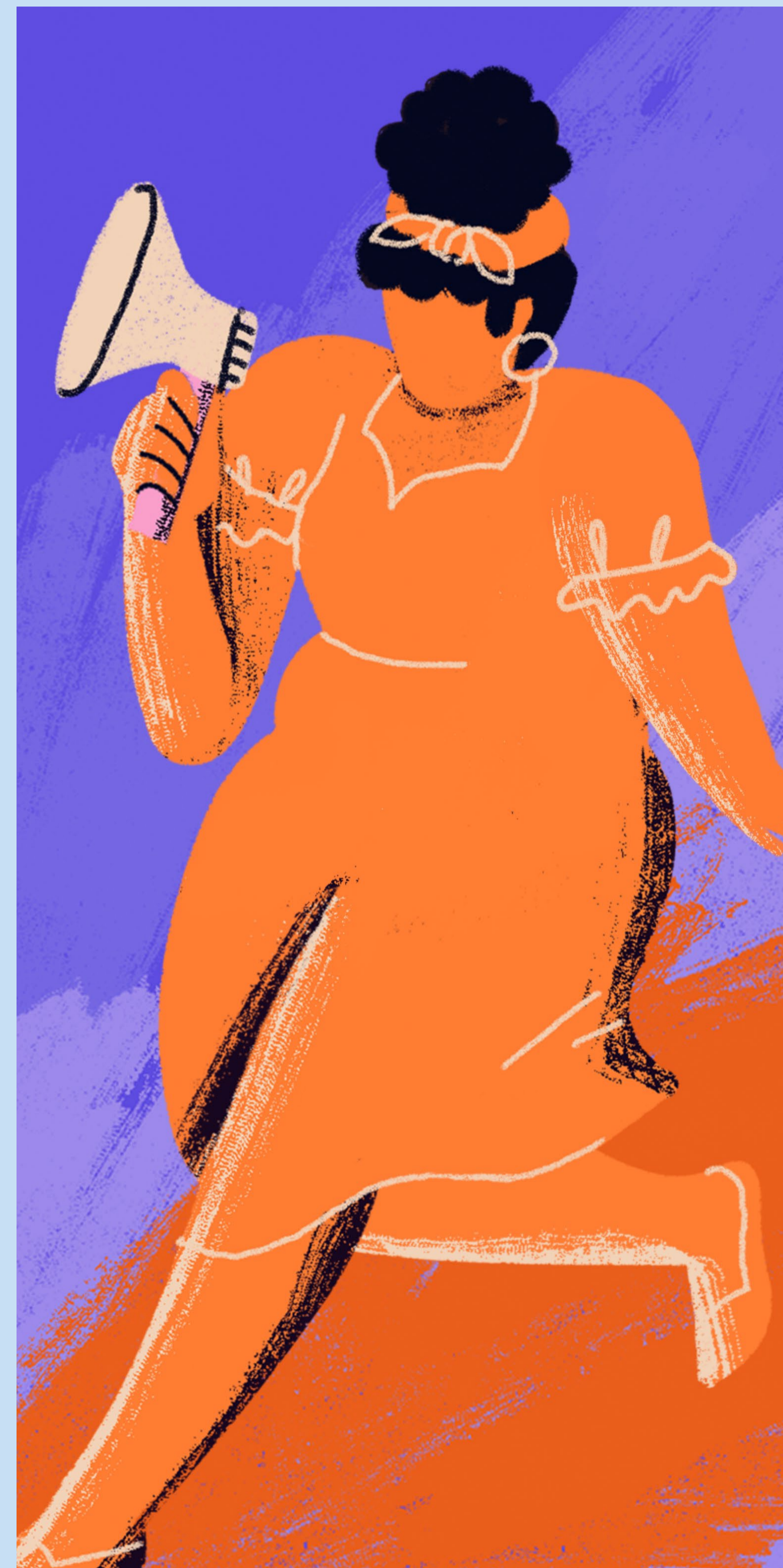
YOUTH HEALTH PROMOTION

Jointly with the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights and the experts team of the Students Healthcare Center, UNFPA supported youth health literacy by supporting eleven episodes of the educational podcast Take Care of Me (Podcast ČUVAJ ME) related to the most relevant topics of youth and sexual and reproductive health and rights. As a result, 35.000 young people were reached during the campaign, while more than 4000 listened to at least one podcast episode. In addition, a manual for Youth Health Literacy was developed by 18 health professionals/experts and a

young person where the most important information about the body and health, with a particular focus on the importance of self-determination when making body decisions.

THE BODYRIGHT CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED "YOUR BODY IS YOURS! BOTH ONLINE AND OFF!"

Based on the global campaign of UNFPA on technology facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV), UNFPA in Serbia and the Western Balkan region countries launched the bodyright campaign in cooperation with the office of the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality under the slogan "Your body is yours!" Both online and off". The campaign aims to raise society's awareness about widespread gender-based violence in the digital sphere and its consequences. As part of the campaign, 4 conferences in the region with decision-makers were organized; social and public media activities with celebrities, such as Ana Đurić - Konstrakta, reached more than 1,5 million people. In addition, a regional analysis of the legal framework on TFGBV was conducted; a localized "Glossary of terms for technology facilitated gender-based violence" was presented, which provides an overview of different forms of violence in the digital world and the possible consequences of such violence. Furthermore, over 60 influencers, including actors, artists, activists, and digital professionals, shared the bodyright promotional video on Instagram and Twitter. The campaign had a cumulative reach of 380,429K on Facebook, 689,726K on Instagram, and 391K on Twitter impressions.





EUROPEAN CERVICAL CANCER WEEK

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in cooperation with the Institute for Public Health of Serbia, the Ministry of Health, and the Committee for International Cooperation of Medical Students - Serbia, marked this 2023 European Cervical Cancer Awareness Week by organizing educational and health promotion activities in four student dormitories. The launch of the campaign named “Cervical cancer - Cancer that can be prevented” was organized on 23 January as a press conference at the Institute of Public Health of Serbia. The campaign’s main focus was that this type of cancer can be prevented by HPV immunization and regular health checkups. The main stakeholders reminded the public that from 2022 the vaccine against HPV infection is available for all girls and boys aged 9-19 and covered by health insurance. UNFPA will continue to work on the dialogue between different actors in order to spread the message that HPV vaccination, regular preventive examinations, and the promotion of health literacy and life skills can prevent cervical cancer.

THE INITIATIVE OF WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES FOR THEIR SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS IN SERBIA

UNFPA supported the Initiative of women with disabilities, focusing on access to healthcare services for women with hearing impairments and women with various disabilities who are not Serbian native speakers. As a result, 117 women with disabilities from 4 municipalities

[Temerin, Valjevo, Raska, and Vranje] were raised in capacities to undertake regular gynecological check-ups and to become trainers for advocacy and advocates for sexual and reproductive rights for women with disabilities. In addition, 42 health professionals working in gynecological departments attended educational sessions to increase their abilities and skills for communicating and treating women with disabilities. Mapping of obstacles in exercising the sexual and reproductive rights of women with disabilities was conducted in two municipalities, Kragujevac and Backa Topola. The results were presented to the general public and decision-makers to advocate for improvement.

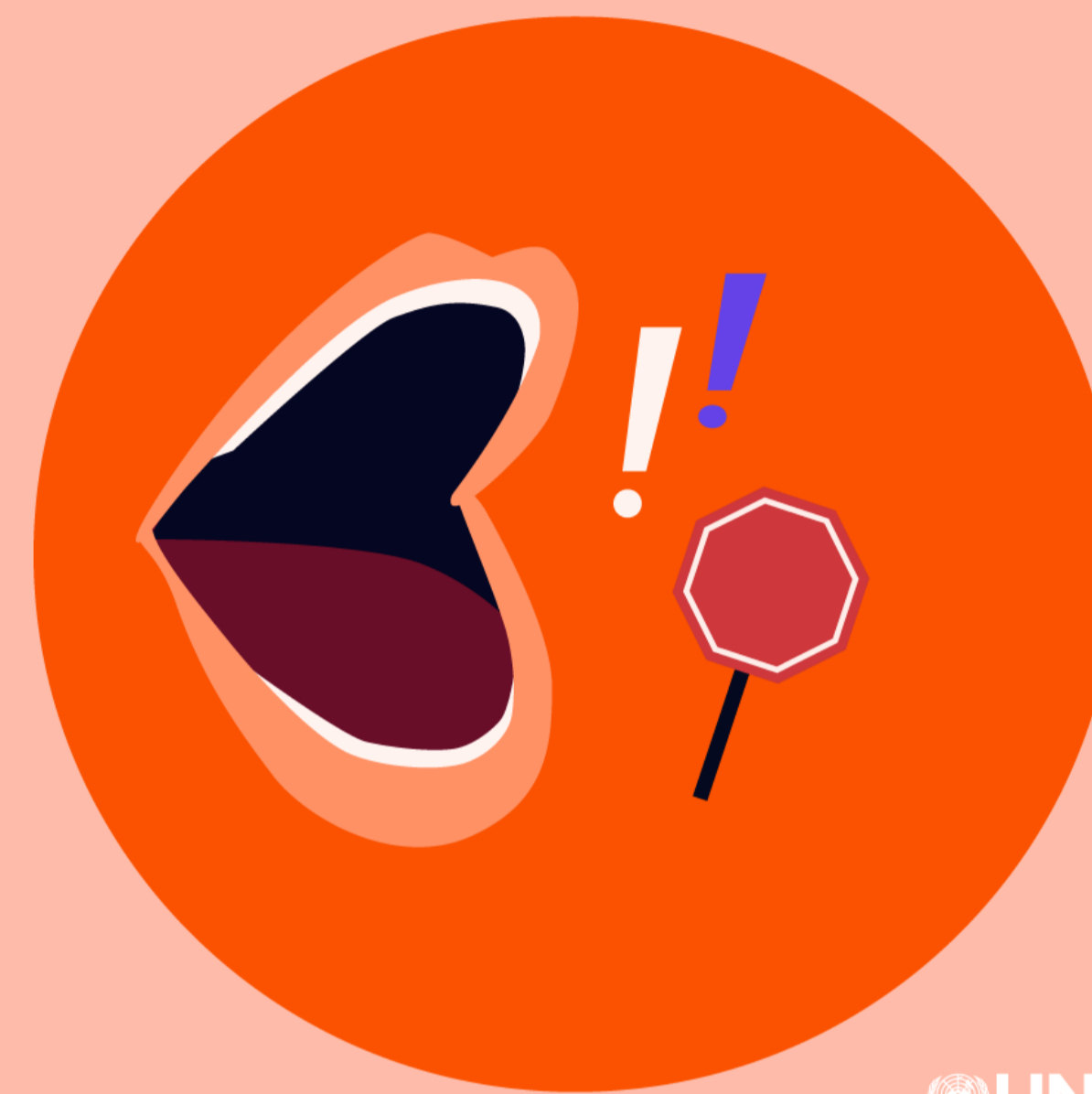
NATIONAL TRANSFER ACCOUNTS AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE SOCIAL SECTOR

Based on the results from the National Transfer Accounts statistical research developed by SORS in 2021, UNFPA supported the development of Policy Recommendations in the Social Sector in the Republic of Serbia based on the National Transfer Accounts. It highlights gendered aspects in relation to the pension system and healthcare sector. The coverage of older persons by pension is relatively high but has a gendered difference where 86.1% of women are covered compared to 69.6% of men. Despite the high health coverage of the population in Serbia, one in four still need to meet their healthcare-related needs, primarily due to financial constraints, and unmet needs are more prevalent among older persons, women, and persons with the lowest education levels. Improvements in the effi-

ciency and quality of healthcare, especially in relation to the insufficiency of developed preventive protection. Screening for breast cancer was done by only 30.1% of women and for cervical cancer by two-thirds. Therefore, the lack of fully implemented screening programs for breast and cervical cancer are addressed as a gendered aspect of the need to improve the quality of healthcare in Serbia.

GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM ON LOW FERTILITY AND POPULATION AGEING

The Global Symposium was co-hosted by UNFPA and Statistics Korea (KOSTAT) and placed the concept of demographic resilience at the center of changing demographic trends. A Serbian Delegation, consisting of representatives from Academia and Civil Society Organizations, was present at the Symposium, joining in discussions on supporting reproductive rights and choices in the face of diverse demographic trends. Special attention was given to the need to enhance women’s rights and to engage in gender, rights, and choices when developing population policies and changing incentives for birth promotion. By tackling structural issues such as gender inequality, it is possible to empower women and couples by providing them with choices for fully realizing their reproductive rights. Therefore, one of the key messages from the Symposium was the call for investing in every stage of a woman’s life, from her childhood, adolescence, and reproductive age, into older years, so that women can have the decision-making power to contribute to society at their fullest potential.





WORKSHOPS ON THE ROLE OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT UNITS IN IMPROVING THE POSITION OF OLDER PERSONS

UNFPA organized three workshops in Čačak, Kragujevac, and Sombor, with stakeholders from the local level on improving the position of older persons. Representatives of the local self-governments, CSOs, the Red Cross, Centers for Social Work, Youth Organizations, and Older persons had the possibility to exchange their knowledge and best practice with national partners (Commissioner for the Protection of Equality). The main findings from the Special Report on Discrimination of Older Persons in Serbia were presented following a discussion on the challenges older persons, especially older women, face in their local communities and priorities in the further development of strategic response.

REPORT ON LONELINESS AND SOCIAL ISOLATION OF OLDER WOMEN AND MEN IN SERBIA

UNFPA has developed the report on loneliness and social isolation of older women and men in Serbia in cooperation with NGO Ideas. The report contributes to a better understanding of the risk factors that lead to loneliness and

social exclusion. The report's key conclusion is that loneliness is more related to the lack of direct, instrumental support in everyday tasks and activities and not so much to the lack of emotional support. The research results indicate that slightly more than two-thirds of older people in Serbia are lonely, which is 11% lower than in the region. Furthermore, the report indicates relatively small gender differences in the position of older persons, except when women live alone, as well as a significant influence of social exclusion. In this sense, older persons with low education and poor financial situation are exposed to risks significantly, and women who live alone also face risks to a significantly greater extent.

SDG-FUNDED JOINT PROJECT

Within the joint project (UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR) "Extending Social Protection to families in Serbia with enhanced shock - responsiveness" and in cooperation with the Center for Democracy Foundation, the Poverty projection for older women and men was developed. It analyzes the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukrainian crisis on poverty for older persons, both women and men. The consequences of COVID-19 become evident in 2021 when measures quiet down, and inflationary pressures increase. In 2021, the

absolute poverty rate of the entire population and those over 65 increased. The older persons' poverty profile suggests that women are more vulnerable, living in multi-person households and in rural areas in the Šumadija and Western Serbia Region.

Moreover, in cooperation with the Center for Democracy Foundation, focus group discussions were held with a special focus on families with children, single-parent families with children, beneficiaries of financial and social assistance, and older persons, both women and men. Conclusions and recommendations of focus group discussions further advocate for the improvement (and, where needed – development) of the economic situation of the most vulnerable groups, their financial inclusion, empowerment of women (mainly single mothers with children) as well as achieving greater equality in terms of accessing the equal rights and services, including those related to social protection, healthcare, and access to the labor market. In addition, in cooperation with Red Cross Serbia, a one-off humanitarian cash transfer was delivered to 75 households with older persons, totaling 114 beneficiaries, out of which 59 were women and 55 were men, thus achieving the gender balance.





GENDER AND SALW - WESTERN BALKAN AUTHORITIES RAISE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES FOR EFFECTIVE PREVENTION AND COMBATTING OF THE MISUSE OF FIREARMS IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

SEESAC has provided comprehensive support to authorities in the region to effectively combat the use of firearms in domestic violence. Such support includes: implementation of the regional analysis of the institutional response to the use of firearms in domestic violence; development of a tool for a gender-sensitive firearm license approval and provision of training on its use and development of a tool for first-line responders to address risks related to the presence of firearms in domestic violence and provision of training on its use.

To facilitate the implementation of those activities, SEESAC convened meetings of the Regional Working Group for the Prevention of the Misuse of Firearms in Domestic Violence (Podgorica, 23-24 November 2022) and Regional Working Group for Gender Sensitive License Approval (Tirana, 30 November-1 December). Meetings gathered relevant professionals from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, and North Macedonia to strengthen their institutional capacities for effective prevention and combatting of the use of firearms in domestic violence. Good practices developed

within UNDP Serbia project Reduce Risks Increase Safety were disseminated during the meetings. Meetings of working groups contributed to an increased understanding of key challenges in preventing the misuse of firearms in domestic violence, and the development of the abovementioned practical tools was initiated.

These activities were implemented within the framework of the regional project **Support for Enhancing the Fight against the Illegal Possession, Misuse, and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in the Western Balkans**, funded by the European Union through the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II).

SUPPORT TO THE MINISTRIES OF DEFENCE (MODS) AND ARMED FORCES (AFS) IN THE WESTERN BALKANS IN IMPLEMENTING UNSCR 1325 AND INCREASING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE MILITARY¹

- **The Regional Baseline Study on Integrating A Gender Perspective in Military Education and Training** was launched at the **15th RGEM**, representing a unique knowledge product in the region and beyond. The aim of the Study was to produce a shared knowledge resource with an overview of the attained level of gender mainstreaming in military education and

training in four defence systems (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia), including best practice examples. The study provides a comprehensive overview of the existing policies and practices in military education, as well as a set of recommendations on integrating a gender perspective in military education and training. Six representatives of the MoD and SAF actively participated in the Regional Working Group that developed the study. Once finalized, the MoD of Serbia approved the study, thus demonstrating the commitment to implement its recommendations.

- As part of operationalization of the recommendations from the Regional Baseline Study two activities in MoD Serbia were in focus in the reporting period:
- In December 2022, **Gender Coach Programme (GCP)** was initiated with the Deputy Dean of the Military Academy in Belgrade. GCP will span for six months. Based on the experience of successful GCPs to date, UNDP SEESAC provides support tailored to the specific needs. Two sessions have been organized in the period December 2022 – January 2023.
- The MoD of Serbia **initiated the revision of the Gender Training Manual** which was published in 2014, to update information and further standardise gender training in the military. Gender trainers from the MoD and AFs of Serbia work on the update with UNDP SEESAC support.
- Regular bi-annual Regional Meetings of Gender Equality Mechanisms in the military (RGEMs) represent a regional platform for exchange of knowledge and information among GEMs, military commanders, and decision-makers in the sector of defence and enable planning of joint regional activities resulting in gender-responsive policies and practices in the military. Eight representatives of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the Serbian Armed Forces (SAF) participated in the **15th RGEM**, held in Belgrade in December 2022. The aim of the 15th RGEM was to present the activities and plans of MoDs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, with a particular emphasis on actions based on recommendations stemming from the second regional study on the **Position of Women in AFs in the Western Balkans** and the **Regional Handbook on Preventing and Responding to Gender-Based Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, and Abuse**, launched in December 2021 at the Ministerial Conference in Budva. The Regional Baseline Study on Integrating A Gender Perspective in Military Education and Training was officially launched at the 15th RGEM, which was opened by Mr. Predrag Bandić, Acting Assistant Minister for Defence Policy at the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia and Mr. Yakup Beris, UNDP Resident Representative in Serbia.

¹ SEESAC's project Strengthening of Regional Cooperation on Gender Mainstreaming in Security Sector Reform in the Western Balkans (WinMil) provides support to four Ministries of Defence (MoDs) and Armed Forces (AFs) in the Western Balkans (WB) in implementing UNSCR 1325 and increasing gender equality in the military. Partners include MoDs and AFs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia and Republic of Serbia. Funding support is provided by the Kingdom of Norway and the Slovak Republic.



INTEGRATED RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SERBIA III

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

ADVOCACY

Striving to end harmful practices affecting children, especially girls, this initiative is supporting the work of the National Coalition to End Child Marriage. The Coalition's advocacy efforts were presented at the South East Europe Roma Child Rights and Inclusion Consultation, organized in October 2022 in Athens by UNICEF Greece. This was an opportunity for the delegation of the Republic of Serbia to exchange experience in building an effective support network and improving the integration of Roma children. The Coalition also developed **two newsletters** to share good practice examples and success stories from state institutions, CSOs, and local community leaders in child marriage prevention. The initiative also supported systematic efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls in the Province of Vojvodina. The Vojvodina Government prepared the draft Provincial Programme on the protection of

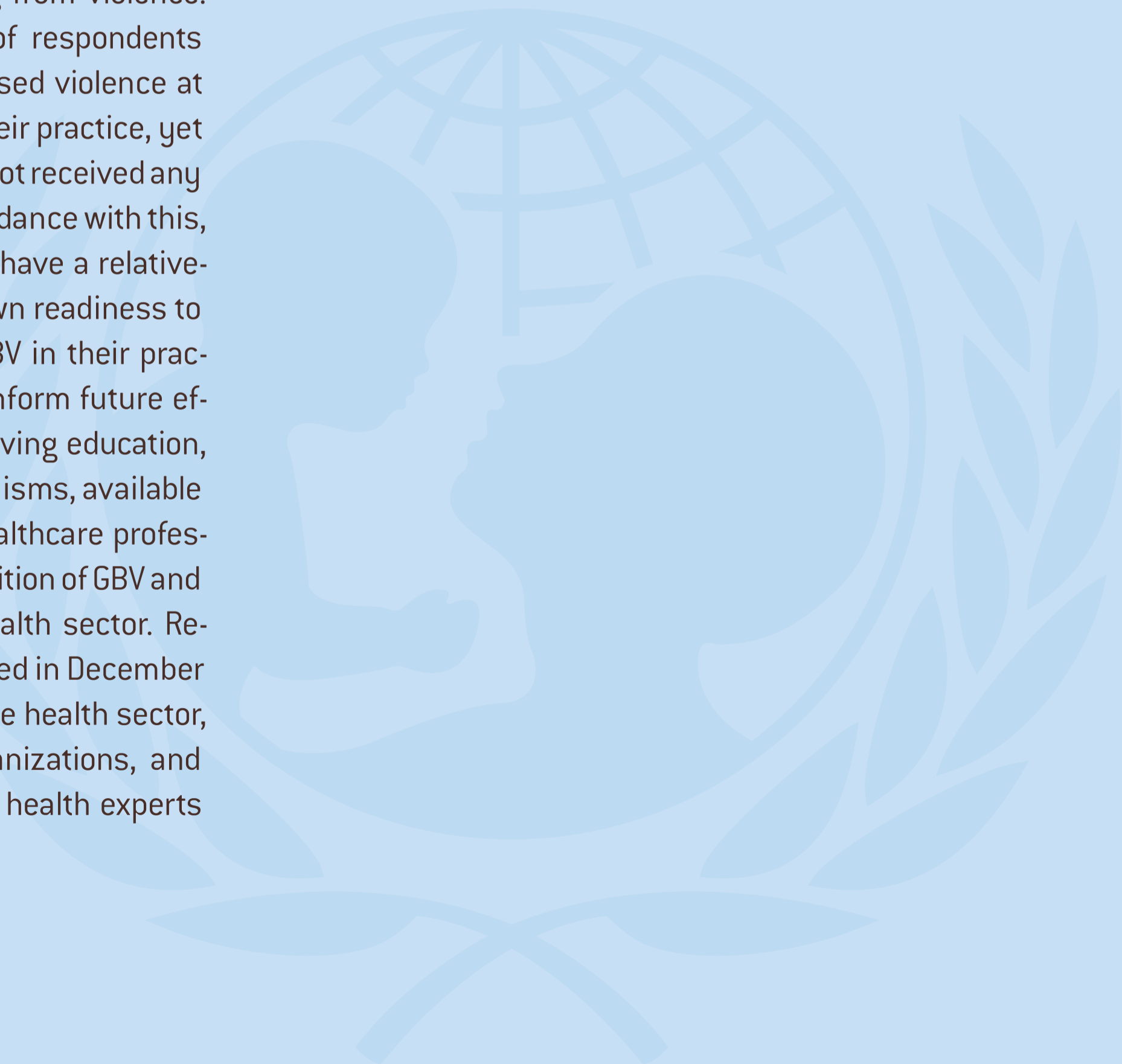
women from domestic and intimate partner violence and other forms of gender-based violence (GBV) for the period 2023-2025, currently submitted for adoption. The document represents the continuation of work in this area and builds on previous good practices. It includes measures to improve cooperation with specialized women's CSOs, strengthen programmes and services for the empowerment of survivors and measures to improve multi-agency response to violence involving survivors from vulnerable groups and those exposed to specific forms of violence (e.g. sexual violence).

KNOWLEDGE SOURCES FOR CHANGE

The role of public prosecutors in the prosecution of criminal acts related to domestic violence is of crucial importance, since they represent the link between the activities undertaken by the police to identify suspects of these crimes and the court's final decision on their guilt. However, prosecutors' response can be limited by various factors, including inadequate understanding of the nature of domestic violence, insufficient knowledge of binding international legal standards, as well as the presence of stereotypes and prejudice with regards to the facts of the committed act. This is why a **manual** was developed to support public prosecutors in the processing

of cases of domestic violence, in accordance with international and domestic standards.

Healthcare is sometimes the only system a violence survivor turns to for protection and support. In addition, health workers have a duty to protect survivors of violence, which requires multiple professional competencies. To identify the main factors contributing to effective response of the healthcare system to GBV and assess what further support is required, over 1700 research respondents were asked to provide their feedback on their capacities and potential challenges in preventing and protecting from violence. According to findings, 2/3 of respondents deal with cases of gender-based violence at least once during a year in their practice, yet 60% of health workers have not received any training on this topic. In accordance with this, over half of the respondents have a relatively low assessment of their own readiness to recognize and respond to GBV in their practice. These results serve to inform future efforts when it comes to improving education, training, institutional mechanisms, available support and materials for healthcare professionals, and to ensure recognition of GBV and efficient response by the health sector. Research findings were presented in December 2022 to representatives of the health sector, donor and international organizations, and were widely disseminated to health experts and via social media.





TRAININGS

To prevent harmful practices that lead to the perpetuation of violence, the Project team helps professionals in the health, education and social welfare systems to support parents to practice non-violent child disciplining. In the period from August 2022 to January 2023, 85 professionals from 20 institutions learned how to assist parents in positive parenting. A total of 360 professionals participated in the trainings, mainly those who work in 60 Centers for Social work-CSWs (reaching 42% of all CSWs), since June 2022. Following the trainings, all participants received supervisory support. A Manual for professionals with guidance on how to support non-violent disciplining of children was also developed. It will be printed and distributed in 2023.

Local professionals from institutions responsible for responding to domestic violence cases in Vojvodina learned how to work together to solve complex cases of domestic violence. 10 cases from 10 municipalities were resolved by implementing 63 victim-centered measures for protection and support, as defined through 21 multi-sectoral case conference meetings. Also, 317 professionals from 20 municipalities improved their skills regarding the protection and support of women survivors of violence from marginalized groups, as well as women survivors of specific forms of violence, including sexual violence.

Working together with the Ministry of Justice and Higher Prosecution Office of Belgrade, the Project team organized trainings on how

to deal with complex cases of violence - for all Basic Prosecution Offices, Police Stations and Social Welfare Centers on the territory of the city and municipalities of Belgrade. The 4 trainings, gathering nearly 200 participants, aimed to ensure that professionals are better able to assess risk (including risk of firearms misuse) of violence escalating or repeating in cases of domestic violence, and provide adequate protection and support, in line with the national legislation addressing domestic violence.

From August 2023 until end of January 2023, 41 healthcare professionals have completed the online training on preventing and responding to gender-based violence. Another 142 have enrolled for the upcoming period. A total of 100 professionals completed this training since its launching in March 2022.

PREVENTION

A national campaign on positive parenting was implemented in September and October, 2022, with the motto: “**Be the hand that loves and word that guides**”. The campaign aimed to raise awareness and increase understanding of the general population, parents, and professionals about the harms of violent disciplining of children and to provide alternative positive parenting options. It also advocated for and supported changes in the Family Law banning physical disciplining of children. Communication activities that went beyond the one-month campaign reached over 4 million people.





MEDIA – AN IMPORTANT ALLY IN ENDING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

To encourage media reporting on violence against women that contributes to greater public understanding of the problem and improved prevention, with support of UNDP, the group “Journalists against Violence” organized a **debate on ethical media reporting on violence against women**. On this **live-streamed** occasion, members of the group stated that it is of great importance that editors understand that violence against women is a specific topic and journalists with special training and experience should be sent to report on it. They added that media should use reporting on concrete cases of violence to shed light on the entire phenomenon, its causes and consequences, not only for the survivor, but for the wider community. During the same event, the photo and illustration exhibition “**An image for change**” was opened, presenting several of the works from a previously developed database of images that represent the problem of violence against women in an ethical way. The event was followed by meetings of the group’s members at several media houses (including tabloids) for provision of concrete guidelines to improve their work on reporting on violence. This **blog** captures the group’s main achievements in the past five years.

In addition to this, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and Higher Prosecutor’s Office in Belgrade, a unique joint training of journalists and public prosecutors was organized to improve understanding of information needs of media and effects of media

reporting on legal procedures in cases of domestic and gender-based violence. The event encouraged closer cooperation between media and public prosecutor’s offices, in order to ensure that violence survivors’ dignity and privacy is respected in media reports and legal procedures for their protection and sanctioning of perpetrators are not hindered by media reporting.

WOMEN IN STEM

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

Recently, UNDP **gathered** a broad group of women in IT to discuss the value of women in STEM/IT for improvement of the general situation of women and broader economic and social development. This was also an opportunity to identify obstacles that women face, from traditional perceptions of gender roles and appropriate careers for women and men to segregation in education and unwelcoming work environments affecting women’s participation in higher and better paid positions. In the following period, UNDP and Accelerator Lab will implement a number of research initiatives related to women in STEM fields. We will use alternative sources of data, as well as personal stories of women, to better understand the aspects that remain elusive when observing only statistical data.





SUPPORTING LOCAL ACTIONS THAT EMPOWER WOMEN AND GIRLS

In October 2022, the **Regional Programme on Local Democracy in the Western Balkans 2 (ReLOaD2)** (financed by the European Union) supported thirty CSOs to implement activities in 7 cities and municipalities in Serbia. Over 60% of expected direct beneficiaries of these projects are women and girls, while four projects are entirely dedicated to women's empowerment.

Their areas of intervention are:

- Breast cancer prevention: CSO Jedna za drugu taught nearly 80 women in the villages of Čantavir and Hajdukovo to perform breast self-examinations, prepare healthy meals and apply relaxation and recreation techniques, with the aim of preventing or alleviating consequences of breast cancer.
- Encouraging and developing creativity in adolescent women/girls: CSO Alternativni centar za devojke organized a Camp for Super Girls for 13 participants who achieved remarkable success in science, art, and sports. The aim was to improve the educational and professional advancement of girls through a set of gender-sensitive and creative workshops.
- Enabling adult women in rural areas who are or want to become entrepreneurs. CSO Centar za ravnomerni regionalni razvoj – Centrir selected 35 women from Topola who are owners of agricultural households or make up the main work-

force on farms registered to another person. The selected women will receive support for starting or improving the sale of their products via the Internet in the upcoming months. CSO SPA also empowers women who want to start or improve their own businesses, through a series of trainings, workshops and professional mentorship for 300 women from rural areas of Vladičin Han.

YOUTH 4 INCLUSION, EQUALITY AND TRUST

“Strengthening the role of youth in promoting increased mutual understanding, constructive narrative, respect for diversity, and trust in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Kosovo¹” is a joint initiative of UNDP, UNFPA and UNESCO and UN Women and funded by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF). As part of the initiative, a call was opened for young men and women to apply for a **series of educational seminars** giving youth new skills on constructive narratives, mutual trust, inter-cultural dialogue, diversity and gender equality. The seminars will gather a new generation of women and men decision-makers and leaders who are working to better understand each other and encourage dialogue and respect of mutual differences. By April 2024, two groups of 50 participants (at least 40% women) will have gained knowledge required to become leaders of change in their commu-

nities. To create collaborative networks in Serbia by involving youth from different groups, 15 young ambassadors for peace (of which 8 women) were selected to take part in a study visit and workshop. They networked in Belgrade and discussed policies and stakeholders that shape their lives and future, and improved their skills that help them better use opportunities for increased dialogue and inclusion. To promote constructive and gender sensitive media narratives, two episodes of the podcast “**Neizdrž**” were recorded, giving a voice to prominent young women leaders. The first topic was the importance of creating positive narratives and positive media campaigns. The second episode discussed Girls, a play that deconstructs gender stereotypes imposed on girls while growing up.

An important part of this initiative for 2023 is the development of a youth-led regional research shedding light on the linkages between toxic masculinities, sexism, misogyny, violence, as well as social cohesion with gender equality in the public domain. The research will explore four main themes: past negative legacies, nationalistic narratives, gender equality and Covid-19, and analyse how they have impacted social cohesion in the region. Furthermore, the research will investigate how the absence of women, and especially young women, in public life impacts on peaceful societies. Besides participating as young researchers, youth will also be engaged in identifying possible solutions that contribute to inclusive, equal and peaceful societies.





MATERNAL, CHILD HEALTH AND BREASTFEEDING

The second part of 2022 was rich with the activities in the field of support of premature babies. The trainings of healthcare workers engaged in the NICUs in the domain of understanding and applying the principles of family-oriented and developmental care was intensified. Approximately 200 health workers from six NICUs throughout Serbia were empowered to apply the principles of a family-oriented approach in the care of a premature child while in the NICU. On the occasion of the World Prematurity Day, the Institute of Neonatology was supported in organizing an event that brought together parents with children, health professionals and media representatives. An event was used to stress the importance of parent support from the birth of child and during her/his growing up. At the end of November 2022, an online parenting school titled “When the Baby Rushes to the World” was held.

WASH IN ROMA SETTLEMENTS

As part of the cooperation of UNICEF and Institute of Public Health of Serbia on the development of activities in the domain of WASH, approximately 620 families or 3.258 persons were supported with hygiene dignity kits. Out of the total number of persons included in the distribution of hygiene packages, there were 732 women over the age of 18 and 996 fe-

male girls. Within this WASH initiative, online educational material for improving health literacy of Roma children and posters for proper application of hygiene principles in Roma settlements were prepared.

GENDER-RESPONSIVE PARENTING PROGRAMME

The expansion of the playful parenting program from 5 pilots to additional 29 local governments brought together more than 100 health, preschools and social welfare institutions and over 1000 ECD practitioners, as well as local decision-makers, on board to introduce innovative policies and practices focused on building the capacities of caregivers to promote, gender-balanced parenting, child development and caregivers’ mental health. So far, 800 early child development front-line workers from three systems in 34 sites (20% of municipalities) engaged in the learning journey and 2,000 were reached through horizontal learning processes. The training package designed to support the integration of innovative skills in routine practices, which include gender-responsive parenting practices, was officially accredited for health and preschool professionals, making learning opportunities for service providers more sustainable. To ensure future professionals are ready to provide innovative evidence-based ECD practices, the Academy of Vocational Studies – Medical school for nurses, with the support of UNICEF, initiated

the improvement of educational programs, content and teaching skills and programs, also to include includes Gender-Transformative Parenting Training and Resource Package. Similarly, from 5 pilot municipalities the Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) services that support the development and inclusion of children with developmental delays and disabilities were expanded to additional 14 locations, reaching 2,400 children (874 girls, 1526 boys). More than 30 000 parents in the reporting period across Serbia were reached through 8 editions of the UNICEF (online) Parenting School providing them with learning opportunities to enhance their parenting practices. The quality of the content of the Bebbi app is constantly being upgraded and Serbia has reached more than 44 000 uptakes. The application is designed so that both dad and mom can monitor the child’s individual development and receive advice and guidance on how to support the child’s health and development. According to real-time data distribution of users’ relations with children is following: 84,51% mothers, 13,20% fathers, 1,31% other caregivers, 0,98% service providers out of 25.500 users (not out of downloads). At the end of the year December 2022, the Large Scale Annual ECD Parenting Conference was held, which included high-level representatives, parents and practitioners. The conclusions sent a strong advocacy message on the need to invest in quality and accessible support services for parents and family-friendly business practices that enable a greater level of equality in parenting.





NEW STRATEGIES/REPORTS RELEVANT TO GENDER EQUALITY

UNICEF consulted youth via U-Report on Media Reporting on Violence Against Girls and Women, noting a high level of concern among young people on the issue of media effect on gender equality. Out of 1,544 respondents, female respondents were particularly critical of the media's handling of reporting on violence, with 69% believing that the media does not report violence in a professional, ethical, and compassionate manner. Many surveyed girls and young women said that the media further traumatize victims (36%), justifies violence (30%) and does not educate people on the issue sufficiently (26%). Reporting on violence also caused anxiety among 70% of respondents, with a higher impact among female respondents (74%). A large majority of respondents (94% among female respondents) believed that attributing responsibility for violence to girls and women is unacceptable. Recommendations for improvement included better legislation (35%) and taking responsibility for unprofessional reporting about violence against girls and women (28%).

NATIONAL REPORT ON INCLUSIVE EDUCATION 2019-2021

UNICEF supported development of the *Second National Report on Inclusive Education 2019-2021*, which provided insight in all key improvements and challenges in the inclusive education implementation, coordination,

and monitoring. One of the main findings and recommendations of the Report refers to measures for the increase of *coverage of girls from vulnerable groups with mainstream education, as well as for their enhanced social and education inclusion and prevention of dropout*. The Report's findings and recommendations were the subject of wide national consultations and were presented on the Public Hearing organized by the National Parliament Committee for Education, Science, Technological Development, and Information Society, ensuring national consensus on the ways forward in development of inclusive education nurturing gender equality. Recommendations of the Report will be integrated in the *Education Strategy Action Plan 2024-2026*.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION LEGAL FRAMEWORK

UNICEF supported development of the analysis of the compliance of Serbian national inclusive education legislative framework with the international standards, which provided significant recommendations for further development of gender sensitive and gender responsible education legislative. Recommendations include legal amendments necessary to address gender stereotypes, support to education of girls from vulnerable groups, prevention of gender related dropout, introducing gender sensitive language, promoting gender equality and prevention of gender-based discrimination and vio-

lence. The recommendations are integrated in the National Report on Inclusive Education 2019-2021 which reached national consensus on further steps. The intersectoral Working Group, which will further develop legal recommendations and transfer them into the legal and policy framework, is being established by the Ministry of Education.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN EMERGENCIES (GBVIE)

UNICEF ensured direct GBV prevention and response services for refugee and migrant women. Girls and boys in 3 reception/asylum centres and 1 protection hub in Belgrade area, in collaboration with 2 implementing partners Info Park and Danish Refugee Council. These services included outreach, in-person and remote (Viber community and SOS phone line) prevention activities and psychosocial support focusing on women and girls survivors/at risk of GBV (through workshops and info-sessions, and individually via hotline), as well as safe referral and support to case management in GBV cases. GBV info materials have been developed and distributed to beneficiaries accommodated in all locations, reaching over 900 women, girls, and boys in this period. UNICEF has continued to distribute dignity/hygiene kits for purposes of mitigating GBV risks reaching 580 beneficiaries in this period. The kits included key hygiene and other vital items for women, girls and boys accommodated in reception/asylum centers, social protection institutions and NGO shelters.

SUPPORT TO THE EDUCATION OF REFUGEE AND MIGRANT GIRLS IN SERBIA

In order to provide education continuity for children on the move, UNICEF has, since 2020, continuously supported development of the learning opportunities for children on the move at three reception/asylum centers in Serbia. As of 2022, the focus of the support provided by UNICEF has moved towards schools educating children on the move, while keeping attention to non-formal activities for children in asylum/reception centres. UNICEF efforts are aimed to strengthening the system to provide efficient and quality additional learning support and support to integration of children on the move in peer groups. Bearing in mind traditional gender roles and norms UNICEF actions also focus specifically on encouragement and outreach to girls on the move and their parents to enroll their female children in schools and learning/social activities. During 2022, through various learning support and educational activities, 196 participants were directly involved in programs delivered by UNICEF, whereas 37% of the total participants were girls. According to SCRM data, the share of the female population in the total number of school-age children accommodated in AC/RCs is 38%, which means that the gender gap has been successfully tackled.



FIGURES AND STATISTICS

Among the 27,756 newly arrived persons observed between August 2022 and January 2023, 95% were men, 3.5% were children, including 527 UASC, and only 1.5% were women. As per Serbian Commissariat SCRM data, at end-January 2023, 2,940 refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were accommodated in 17 governmental asylum/reception/transit centres, of which 2,685 men (91.3%), 132 women (4.5%) and 123 children (4.2%). Meanwhile 22% of all the children recorded in the centres were UASC (27). Four women were granted refugee status and two received subsidiary protection during the reporting period. UNHCR and partners provide legal assistance and an individualized integration support to recognized refugees.

UKRAINIAN RESPONSE

Since the escalation of conflict in Ukraine, the Serbian Ministry of Interior (MOI) has noted a total of 144,299 persons who fled the country and entered Serbia. Refugees from Ukraine are accommodated in Vranje Asylum Center (AC), run by Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migration (SCRM), that was renovated with UNHCR funds and equipped with

IKEA support. At end-January, 72 (11 men, 42 women, 12 boys, and 7 girls) refugees were accommodated in Vranje AC. Between August 2022 and January 2023, a total of 348 Ukrainians (89 men, 184 women, 42 boys and 33 girls) requested temporary protection, while 352 were granted the TP during the period considered. UNHCR finalized the preliminary results of the mapping of needs of Ukrainian refugees living privately. UNHCR partners Crisis Response Policy Centre (CRPC) and Humanitarian Center for Integration and Tolerance (HCIT) developed information flyers (available in Ukrainian, Serbian and Russian languages) for 15 municipalities, which contains general information and main contacts in those municipalities.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Inclusion of refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs and persons at risk of statelessness in community activities promotes inclusion and peaceful coexistence. UNHCR focuses on promoting their human capital, and on linking them with the local authorities, schools, youth, cultural centres and municipalities, and on supporting joint projects.

- Within the European Week of Sport, ten refugee women from Ukraine and Bu-

rundi participated in the 'Women's Run', which took place in Belgrade's Ada Ciganlija. UNHCR enabled the refugees' participation. Following the signing of the MoU between UNHCR Serbia and the Belgrade Marathon Ltd. earlier in the year, 25 refugees from Burundi, of which four female runners, took part in the half-marathon in Belgrade on 27 November. UNHCR Serbia was present in the half-marathon with a large stage on which female refugees from Burundi performed in indigenous costumes and the Roma and refugee children from the Music Art Project orchestra and choir, supported by UNHCR. Refugee children from Krnjača AC participated with their Serbian Peers in the "Music without Borders" concert in Belgrade, organized by the Embassy of Slovakia and the Children's Colony/Handicraft Bazaar hosted by the Embassy of Canada.

- UNHCR supported the Handicraft Show which was organized by Sigma Plus with refugees in Vranje AC. Ten Ukrainian refugee women represented their handicrafts, and the event was attended by numerous organizations and local institutions from Vranje. It served as an opportunity to present the skills and capacities among refugee community as an important asset to the society, in this regard a blanket

prepared jointly by the refugee women from Vranje Asylum Center and women sheltered at the center for development of social protection was donated to the Safe House in Vranje.

- UNHCR established cooperation with Women on the Way, a social enterprise established by an Iranian refugee in Serbia, which now employs other refugee women and Čini dobro Association, which focuses on the Ukrainian community in Serbia.
- Promotion of social inclusion of refugees, cohesion and further bringing together the host and refugee communities continued with the organization of two events of Deli Monday. In September, the event was dedicated to Ukrainian & Serbian cuisines, and was organized in cooperation between UNHCR, CRPC, young refugees and the Hospitality and Tourism School in Belgrade. In November UNHCR joined hands with the Italian Embassy in Belgrade to organise the sixth traditional Deli Monday. Together with refugee cooks and the students at the School for Hospitality and Tourism in Belgrade, this social cohesion event gathered more than 100 refugees, members of the UNHCR donor community and citizens of Belgrade.



WOMEN LEADERSHIP AND GENDER EMPOWERMENT IN REFUGEE COMMUNITIES

In order to reduce risk of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), to promote resilience and to aid recovery of communities, UNHCR and DRC implemented various groups of activities targeting women and girls. These activities included: identification of GBV survivors, empowerment activities, health raising awareness and protection monitoring. A total number of 16 GBV survivors were identified, assisted, and referred to specialized services. Legal assistance, including in-court representation, have been provided to the GBV survivors. During the reporting period, DRC, supported by UNHCR, held a total of 85 activities for refugee and asylum-seeking women accommodated in the Krnjaca Asylum Centre. Vast majority of the activities took place in the Women Safe Space inside the asylum centre aiming at promotion of women's rights such as right to seek asylum, prevention against gender-based violence, health promotion activities etc. Alongside, DRC organized a series of inclusion and integration activities for women and girls including visits to museums, theatres, botanical garden, film festivals, recreational activities and New Year's gathering in the Community Centre Kvaka 22.

Partner Sigma Plus organized for six refugee women from Ukraine, accommodated in AC Vranje, to participate and present Ukrainian cuisine in the "Dani banice", traditional food festival in Bela Palanka, as a good example of sharing cultural and traditional values with the host community.

LGBTI+

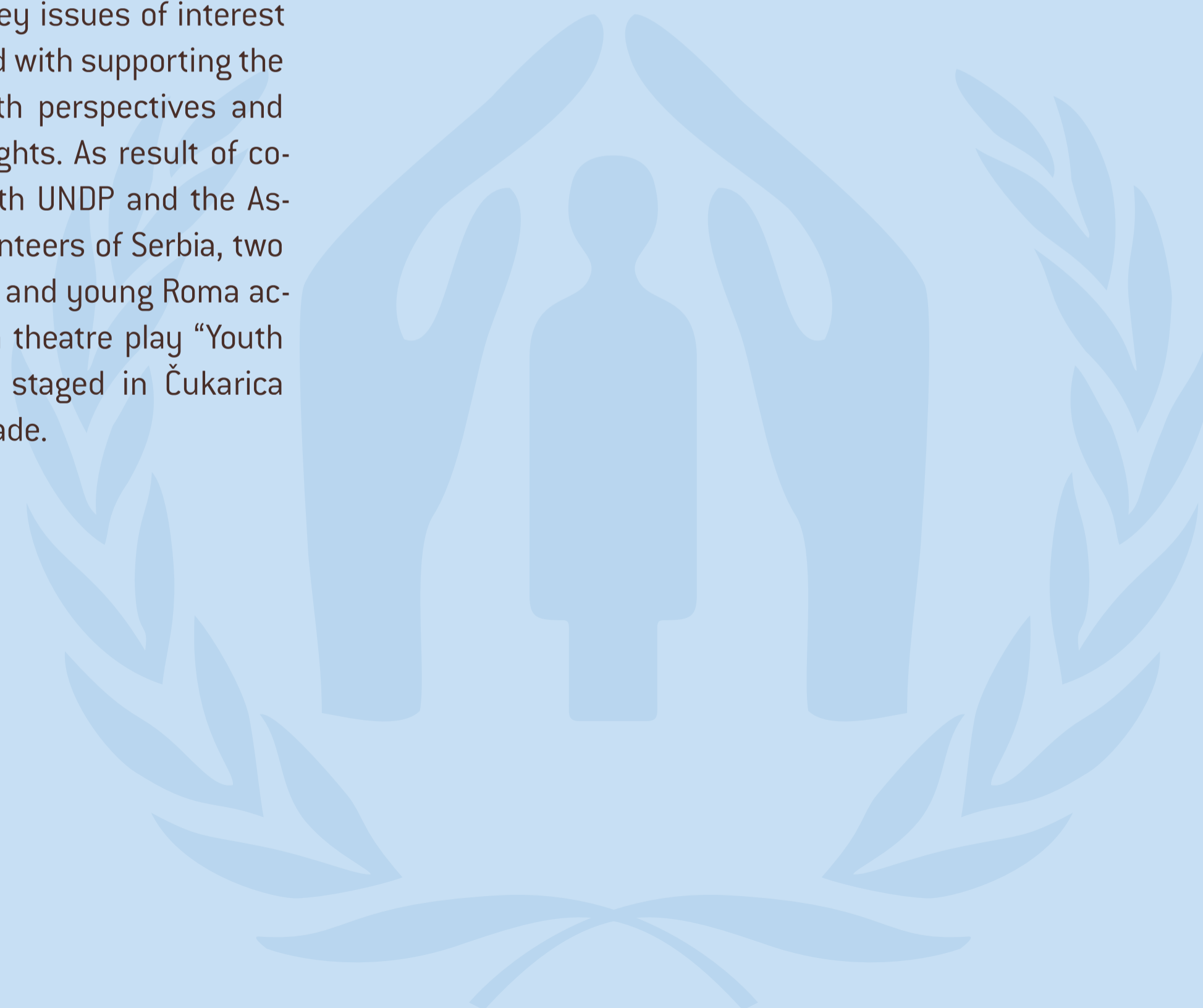
During the EuroPride Week, two events featured refugee rights: the Impact Hub in Belgrade hosted the UNHCR and its partners in a joint event which explored "Best refugee integration practices – finding a safe home and workplace". On the same day, UNHCR and its partners Belgrade Centre for Human Rights (BCHR) and Crisis Response and Policy Centre (CRPC) gave a workshop in the Human Rights House in Belgrade on "LGBTI+ persons in mixed migrations and granting refugee protection based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI)". In December, the BCHR organized a meeting with the authorities where recommendations for the protection of SGBV and LGBTQIA+ refugees and asylum-seekers were presented. The CRPC presented the publication "Information on available services and resources for LGBTQIA+ asylum seekers, refugees and other people we work with". The booklet, intended for LGBTQIA+ refugees and asylum seekers, provides integrated information about the services available and the service providers in Serbia.

EDUCATION

Through DAFI – Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative, UNHCR continued to support four refugee students, among them two young woman, who are enrolled in tertiary education in Serbia. This year UNHCR Serbia marked the 30th anniversary of the DAFI programme, financed mainly by the Federal Republic of Germany.

PEER EDUCATION

Partners DRC, IDEAS and CRPC supported unaccompanied minor peer educators by organizing cultural activities combined with discussion on challenges of integration: a visit to the Museum of Yugoslavia, a visit to the Botanical Garden "Jevremovac" and attendance of a French movie evening in Kvaka 22 in Belgrade. One peer educator was supported in finding a summer job in a café in Belgrade. A young refugee from Afghanistan and a female Roma activist, both peer educators trained and supported by UNHCR, joined in the full membership of the Youth Advisory Group for the UN Cooperation Framework in Serbia, tasked with advising the UN Country Team in Serbia on key issues of interest to the young people and with supporting the mainstreaming of youth perspectives and enforcement of their rights. As result of cooperation of UNHCR with UNDP and the Association of Young Volunteers of Serbia, two refugee peer educators and young Roma activists participated in a theatre play "Youth in Action is No Myth" staged in Ćukarica Cultural Centre in Belgrade.



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS TEAM

On September 22, the Human Rights Team and the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue jointly organized the launch of a Tool for the introduction of the “Leave No One Behind” principle into legislative and strategic acts of the Republic of Serbia. The Tool provides clear guidelines for decision-makers in understanding and applying one of the major principles of the 2030 Agenda. In particular, the LNOB Tool emphasizes the fundamental importance of gender perspective in ensuring the integration of the leave no one behind the principle and provides a step-by-step approach to establish gender and human rights responsive budgeting, integrate gender-responsive approaches and ensure access to pertinent legislative acts that safeguard discrimination against women. It is intended for various stakeholders who participate in the processes of proposing, adopting, implementing, monitoring and evaluating fairer legislative

and strategic acts, at all levels, and other relevant actors. The launch event was attended by nearly 100 participants, including national authorities, UN System officials from Serbia and globally, development partners, civil society, academia, independent institutions, the international community, and representatives of marginalized groups. The opening remarks were delivered by the Minister for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue, the UN Resident Coordinator in Serbia, the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament, and the Chief of the Development and Economic and Social Rights Branch, Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division, OHCHR. This global pilot initiative was implemented with the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (SURGE Project), making the Republic of Serbia the first country to develop such a tool.



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN BELGRADE

UNOB organized the film screening for the UNMIK-produced movie called “Not Your Property” (about violence against women in Kosovo) at the UN House, to which all UN staff and various NGOs and women’s organizations were invited to attend. It took place on 28 September, and included the participation of UNMIK, the RC, UNOB and UN Women, and after the movie screening there was a roundtable discussion. Besides this, UNOB produced a One Pager on Political Participation of Women in Serbia following elections for raising awareness within the UN system about Serbia’s performance in promoting gender equality.

KNOW THE ISSUE- AND THE SIGNS



The International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) is supporting the project “Gender Equality for Cultural Diversity” conceived by the **Association Independent Cultural Scene of Serbia**. The project aims to create an enabling environment for women to assume a more equitable share of cultural production in the country. A central aim of the project is to identify the mechanisms that generate gender inequalities in Serbia’s cultural and creative industries (CCIs). An online research study among 206 women working in the CCIs in Serbia revealed that over 60% of respondents felt that they were discriminated against in their professional environments due to gender. Moreover, over 80% believed that women were discriminated against in CCIs in general. In collaboration with the Faculty of Arts, Niš, the study is expected to be published in 2023. The project further aims to strengthen the ca-

pacities of women working in the CCIs in the country. Following the results of the study, a tailor-made capacity building programme has already benefitted 83 women working in the CCIs, covering topics such as labour law, self-care, fundraising, public relations, and marketing. In addition, between June 2022 and October 2022, a regional mobility programme took place, where 12 women were invited to participate in a range of Serbia’s festivals, art residencies, exhibitions, conferences, and research. The IFCD is part of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005). Through offering funding to cultural and creative projects in developing countries, it aims to empower both civil society actors and public sectors to drive robust and sustainable creative economic growth.



GENDER THEMATIC GROUP

- UN agencies organized numerous separate events targeting different communities. The overview of events was shared via joint UN calendar on social media.
- UN staff took a group photo in front of UN House, traditionally supporting the Orange the World Campaign.
- UNCT Serbia marks constant progress in its Annual UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard Reports. Out of total 15 indicators, Serbia exceeded minimum requirements for 9 and met minimum requirements for 9 and met minimum requirements for 6 indicators, an improvement of one indicator compared to 2021.
- UNCT Serbia exceeded its target of 60% for gender financing. In 2022 66% UNSD-CF sub outputs have UNCT Gender Equality Marker 2 and 3 and 63% of funding supports SDG 5 or 57,9 USD million out of 91,8 million USD total. These results were made possible due to capacity building trainings provided by UN Women ECARO and UN System Coordination Division.



NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL DAYS

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF RURAL WOMEN

The event marking the International Day of Rural Women was organized on 12 December 2022, by UN Women and Prijepolje Women's Forum, a woman's civil society organization working on the development of gender equality and improvement of the position of women. The focus of full-day conference organized on Mt. Zlatar, Western Serbia, was women's right to inherit and manage property, since this issue is of great importance for women's economic empowerment and improvement of their overall position, especially in rural areas. The conference was divided into two panels "Women and inheritance - between customs and legal rights" and "What do we (not) get by renouncing the right to inherit and manage property".

The panelists included: Jadranka Djordjevic Crnobrnja, Ethnographic Institute, Mileva Malesic, Prijepolje Women's Forum, Milica Sljukic Pantovic, lawyer, and Malina Stanojevic, Save the Rural Areas, Priboj, as well as Jelena Ruzic, Kolubara District Women's Association, Zoran Polic, Social Protection Services Development Centre in Priboj, Milica Filipovic, woman who shared her strong personal story and Vesna Bogdanovic, Women's Centre Uzice. Panelists gave overview of the position of women throughout history to date in the domain of inheritance, discussed dominant stereotypes and traditions connected to right to inheritance, benefits and losses in accepting/renouncing inheritance and what needs to be done to overcome the obstacles women face in this situation.



NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL DAYS

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

- UN Women in Serbia together with the Coordination Body for Gender Equality of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs and British embassy in Belgrade marked this year's 16 Days of Activism with campaign "Safe Everywhere" that put in focus public safety of women and girls. The campaign was conceived in the form of an immersive exhibition at Kalemegdan Fortress in Belgrade, where all passers-by could see and experience how a part of public space should look like if it were designed for women. Namely, part of the central path on Kalemegdan was reconstructed and transformed so that all women and girls feel safe. The exhibition was opened on 25 November, with presence of Head of UN Women in Serbia, Milana Rikanovic, The Minister for Family Care and Demography, Darija Kisic, Assistant Minister for Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs Biljana Zekavica, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the United Kingdom in Serbia, Dominic Otway and Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union in Serbia, Plamena Halacheva. It was stated that public safety of women and girls is not only local but a global phenomenon, that all relevant actors should work on eradicating violence against women and girls - both in online and offline sphere, and improve the regulatory framework. The message was sent that every woman should be encouraged, motivated and empowered to recognize, resist and report violence.
- 246,771 persons were reached through UN Serbia GTG and Communications Group joint event and social media campaign on the occasion of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, spearheaded by UNFPA as GTG Deputy Chair. A joint event "Life without Violence is Poetry" with 80 participants featured a moderated discussion to raise awareness on violence against women and girls and promote local feminist poets writing about gender equality, women empowerment and VAWG. A young Ukrainian refugee poet, read her favorite Serbian poem and drew attention to violence against women and girls refugees and asylum seekers. As part of the event and social media campaign an [artistic video](#) was produced capturing selected lyrics by the said poets.
- In joining in the wider UN system national campaign, UNHCR organized a humanitarian bazaar of handicraft produced by refugee women from Ukraine and Burundi in Belgrade city centre, and together with its partners series of women's empowerment workshops and activities in Krnjača and Vranje Asylum Centres. DRC organized the Female Festival for 15 refugee and asylum-seeking women accommodated privately and in Krnjača Asylum Centre. Additionally, together with IP Indigo UNHCR organized and supported the activities in Bujanovac, in cooperation with four local NGOs, among them from Roma women and attended by 9 refugee and asylum-seeking women from Bujanovac RTC during which they shared their opinions about the causes of violence against women mentioning the cultural and traditional influence as some of the main factors.
- To mark the "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence", the fourth edition of the campaign "[Tiče me se](#)" (It IS my business) was launched, to encourage everyone to provide support to women experiencing sexual harassment. Using social media, the campaign sought to raise public awareness of this form of violence against women and provided concrete guidance on how to recognize sexual harassment, advice on how to stop it and report it, as well as how to provide support to victims. The campaign reached over 350 000 persons on Facebook and Instagram.