



GRETA

Group of Experts on Action against
Trafficking in Human Beings

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Reply from Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Questionnaire for the Evaluation of the Implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

Fourth Round of Evaluation

Thematic focus: Addressing Vulnerabilities to Trafficking in Human Beings

Adopted by the Group of Experts on Action against
Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA), June 30, 2023

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Introduction

In accordance with Article 38, paragraph 1 of the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings ("the Convention"), GRETA evaluates the implementation of the Convention in accordance with a procedure divided into rounds. At the beginning of each round, GRETA selects the specific provisions on which the evaluation procedure is based.

The first round of monitoring of the Convention provided an overview of its implementation by Member States. The second evaluation round of the Convention examined the impact of legislative, policy and practical measures on the prevention of trafficking in human beings (THB), protection of the rights of human trafficking victims and prosecution of traffickers, with special attention being paid to the measures taken to address new trends in trafficking in human beings, especially trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, and the vulnerability of children to trafficking. The third evaluation round focused on access to justice and effective remedies for victims of trafficking in human beings.

GRETA decided that the fourth evaluation round of the Convention will focus on the **vulnerabilities to trafficking in human beings** and measures taken by Member States to prevent thereof, as well as to detect and support vulnerable victims and punish the offenders. This includes a focus on the use of information and communication technology (ICT), which brings structural changes to the way offenders operate and exacerbates existing vulnerabilities.¹

There are a number of provisions of the Convention that determine material and procedural obligations. The concept of "vulnerability" appears in Articles 4 (Definitions), 5 (Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings) and 12 (Assistance to Victims) of the Convention. In accordance with paragraph 83 of the Explanatory Report to the Convention, "abuse of a position of vulnerability means the abuse of any situation in which the person involved has no real and acceptable alternative to submit to the abuse involved. The vulnerability may be of any kind, whether physical, psychological, emotional, family-related, social or economic. The situation might, for example, involve the insecurity or illegality of the victim's administrative status, economic dependence or fragile health. In short, the situation can be any state of hardship in which a human being is impelled to accept being exploited. Persons abusing such a situation flagrantly violate human rights and human dignity and integrity, which no one can validly renounce."

GRETA refers to ICAT paragraph no. 12/2022 on Addressing vulnerability to trafficking in human beings, which refers to vulnerability as "those inherent, environmental or contextual factors that increase the susceptibility of an individual or group to being trafficked". The paragraph classifies vulnerability factors into three categories: personal (e.g. age, gender, ethnicity, disability), situational (e.g. destitution, unemployment, legal status) and contextual (e.g. discriminatory laws, policies and social norms, armed conflicts, crises) factors that interact and may increase the risk of trafficking in human beings for certain individuals, groups and/or communities.² Vulnerability to trafficking in human beings is also subject to intersectional factors, such as gender, belonging to minority group, and socio-economic status.

Applying a socio-ecological approach in the analysis of vulnerability to trafficking in human beings demonstrated how different risk factors influence vulnerability and how protective factors may reduce the risk of victimization by increasing resilience.³ The socio-ecological model considers the complex interaction between the individual, relationships, community and social factors. It helps to understand how anti-trafficking strategies should: (a) reduce the vulnerability of individuals, (b) work with the communities (which may include relationships) concerned to ensure that their practices or current dynamics do not exacerbate or contribute to vulnerabilities to trafficking in

¹ [Paolo Campana, Online and technology-facilitated trafficking in human beings, the Council of Europe, April 2022.](#)

² [ICAT Issue Brief No. 12 on Addressing Vulnerability to Trafficking in Person – Search \(bing.com\)](#)

³ https://www.avoiceforcentraloregon.com/uploads/1/3/9/9/139904528/socio_ecological_model_and_trafficking.pdf

human beings and, (c) change a number of systemic or structural elements (such as policies) so that they do not facilitate, but discourage, an environment conducive to trafficking in human beings.

In addition to the thematic focus on the vulnerabilities to trafficking in human beings, GRETA decided that each Member State shall receive **additional questions** related to recommendations not implemented or partially implemented after the third evaluation round.

Member States are requested to submit to GRETA a reply to this questionnaire **within four months** from the date of its sending. The reply to the questionnaire should be submitted in one of the official languages of the Council of Europe (English and French), and preferably in the original language. Where appropriate, in order to avoid unnecessary repetition, the reply may refer to the information contained in the report submitted by the national authorities on measures taken in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee of the Parties regarding the implementation of the proposals made in GRETA's third evaluation report. Member States should provide additional copies or extracts of relevant legislation, regulations, national action plans and case law mentioned in the reply to the questionnaire, in the original language and, wherever possible, in one of the official languages of the Council of Europe.

In the preparation of the reply to the questionnaire, variety of stakeholders and civil society representatives should be effectively consulted to ensure that the information provided is as comprehensive as possible.

Part 1 - Addressing vulnerability to trafficking in human beings

I. PREVENTION (Articles 5, 6 and 7)

1. Do you have specific data/research/analysis on what makes people vulnerable to trafficking in human beings (THB) in your country? Please provide information on the categories/groups of people identified as being at risk of becoming victims of trafficking in human beings and how their vulnerability is addressed in the national anti-trafficking strategy and/or action plan. Have you identified geographic regions or economic sectors in your country as particularly vulnerable to trafficking in human beings and how do you address them in your strategy or policy?

In the proposal of the Strategy to Suppress Trafficking in Human Beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2024-2027, prepared by the working group appointed by the Decision of the Minister of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, within the special goal - "prevention", work will be done on the issue of building the citizens and professionals' correct comprehension and understanding of trafficking in human beings, its forms, causes, risks and the way of reacting in cases of recognition of risky situations and the endangerment of individuals and groups. Based on the data collected by the Ministry of Security of BiH, vulnerable categories of the population come from socially/economically vulnerable families and are in most cases suitable for recruitment by fraud, blackmail, coercion and all other elements/indicators to become victims of trafficking in human beings. When it comes to the regions where there are the most cases of trafficking in human beings, these are all the larger cities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where minors are exploited for the purpose of begging, especially those from the Roma population. There is a large number of conducted researches and analyses in relation to trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which, among other things, consider the issue of vulnerability of victims of trafficking in human beings. For example, Research on the Case Law in Processing Trafficking in Human Beings in BiH 2003-2021 carried out by the CPRC also covers this segment. The category/groups of people who are at risk of becoming victims of trafficking in human beings is particularly pronounced among foreign nationals who come for work, the migrant population, and especially children in mixed migrant flows, and it is also present in certain industries, construction, service activity, as well as in Roma communities. Considering the large population migrations, the category of migrants is at risk of becoming victims of trafficking in human beings. Also, what is evident is the increased arrival of foreign nationals who legally come to work in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and who are therefore exposed to risk of becoming victims of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation.

Action plan of the Government of Republika Srpska for combating trafficking in human beings 2024-2027 provides a number of measures and activities targeting these categories. Among other things, it foresees the following:

- training of cultural mediators in the process of identifying victims of trafficking in human beings among migrants, including unaccompanied children and members of the Roma community,
- strengthening capacities and experiences related to identification of trafficking in human beings in mixed migration flows and proactive identification of traditional forms of trafficking in human beings and potential victims within mixed migration flows,
- strengthening the capacity of competent institutions to manage labour migration by providing information on safe and legal opportunities for work and employment of both foreign nationals who work in Republika Srpska and citizens of Republika Srpska who go abroad to work,
- promoting clear criteria for the official registration and licensing of agencies for mediation in employment, and control of the activities of these agencies in an effort to prevent all forms of trafficking in human beings.

IOM Flow Monitoring Survey (FMS) provides an overview of the profile, experiences and needs of migrants staying in temporary reception centres (TRC) in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The survey includes questions about demographics, education and employment background, circumstances of the migration path and migration factors, as well as future intentions. The questionnaire includes a module that collects data on the vulnerability of migrants and the forms of abuse, violence, and exploitation that they may have experienced or witnessed during the journey. The latest data from the FMS questionnaire from 2023⁴ indicate that 18% of all respondents answered "yes" to at least one of the eight indicators related to exploitation. The percentage of 21% of male respondents answered "yes" to at least one of these indicators, while 7% of female respondents stated that they experienced at least one of these indicators.

In 2024, the Association of Romani Women "Bolja Budućnost" of the City of Tuzla, in partnership with the Association "Land of Children in BiH", conducted a survey on the perception of trafficking in human beings among the Roma population.⁵ The research included 400 Roma men and women from four local communities: Kakanj, Donji Vakuf, Sanski Most (extended to Bosanska Krupa, Bihać and Ključ) and Travnik. **Poverty** is recognised as the most important cause of trafficking in human beings in all municipalities, with particularly high percentages in Donji Vakuf (92%) and Kakanj (91%). **Lack of formal education** is the second most important cause in almost all municipalities, but it varies significantly in intensity. The highest percentage was recorded in Kakanj (59%), while the lowest was in Donji Vakuf (31%). **Unemployment** is an important factor in Kakanj (87%) and Donji Vakuf (40%), but it is less pronounced in other municipalities. **Discrimination** is a significant factor, but it does not appear with the same intensity as poverty or lack of education. The highest percentage is in Sanski Most (54%), while the lowest is in Donji Vakuf (8%).

The association "Vaša prava BiH" worked to raise awareness about the issue of trafficking in human beings through focus groups held in Roma settlements, as well as by providing information and legal counselling to foreign nationals on the move. Users' attention is particularly drawn to the risks and dangers arising from the commission of these criminal offences, as well as to the prescribed sanctions based on the case law. We familiarised the aforementioned users with the essential elements of the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings, as well as the methods of identification and self-identification of victims of trafficking in human beings. Before conducting these focus groups and consultations, most of the users were not aware of the dangers and severity of the prescribed sanctions for these crimes. During the visits to Roma settlements cooperation was agreed with Roma representatives and employees of guardianship bodies in terms of timely information on forced begging and underage marriages, as dominant forms of trafficking in human beings in Roma communities. Children form a particularly vulnerable category of the population, and are predominantly exposed to the risk of becoming victims of trafficking in human beings, namely poor children, neglected and educationally neglected children, children victims of domestic violence, children from dysfunctional families, children without parental care, children placed in social welfare institutions or in institutions for children in conflict with the law and Roma children).

Child marriages in Bosnia and Herzegovina can only be concluded under the conditions stipulated by the family laws (entity and the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina) and only in the case when the minor has reached the age of 16. A marriage licence is granted by the court at the request of a minor, and with the participation of the social work centre, which gives its proposal and opinion, determines the existence of conditions for marriage, mental and physical readiness for marriage, the existence of justified reasons for marriage, guided with the intention to protect the best interests of the child. However, this legal possibility should in no way be connected and brought into connection with

illegal behaviours that must be sanctioned, with the note that punishment should be aimed primarily at adults, especially at parents who follow such a tradition, which is not in accordance with the protection of the best interests of the child, support, encourage and implement it. Forced child marriages are a big problem, due to the possibility that child marriages can be used as a disguise for child trafficking and other types of exploitation associated with trafficking in human beings. Ombudsmen did not have individual complaints from citizens and children regarding the problem of child marriages, but due to their proactive action, they investigated the problem of child marriages, which resulted in the preparation of a Special Report on Child Marriages. In January 2024, recommendations were sent to the Government of Republika Srpska, the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Government of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to consider the possibility of removing the exceptions that enable the conclusion of marriage for persons under the age of 18, to take measures aimed at ensuring systemic education of police officers related to the issue of child marriages, as well as to take measures and actions to establish better cooperation between competent prosecutor's offices, centres for social work, courts and the police. The report also pointed out the importance of developing strategies and action plans to combat trafficking in human beings, especially in terms of prevention, but also the importance of defining specific activities with the aim of changing attitudes and raising awareness about the issue of child marriages and combatting discrimination.

2. What concrete measures are being taken to reduce the vulnerability of children to trafficking in human beings by creating a protective environment for children? Please provide information in the following areas:

- a. protection of children's rights from attitudes, customs, behaviour and practices that can have harmful consequences (including child, early and forced marriages and illegal adoption);

The Ombudsmen of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in their Annual Reports on the results of their activities as well as special reports, continuously point out to the competent domestic and international bodies that poverty is one of the most significant causes of violations of children's rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Poverty leads to social exclusion of children, which results in inaccessibility to education, health care, significant affirmation of children's potential, impossibility of employment for their parents, which can also lead to transgenerational poverty, i.e. reproduction of poverty within the same family, etc.

The Ombudsmen have noticed numerous problems in the field of child protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, and they have been advocating for changes in this direction for years, particularly the introduction of legal preventive measures, especially since Bosnia and Herzegovina ratified the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse in 2013. It is necessary to harmonise the criminal legislation with the so-called Lanzarote Convention and therefore the competent authorities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina would have to proceed without delay with amendments to the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Ombudsmen forwarded a recommendation to the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to immediately initiate procedural actions aimed at amending the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Constitution of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and international documents on the protection of human rights and children's rights. The Ombudsmen have been advocating for years for the establishment of a register of legally convicted persons for criminal offences of sexual abuse and exploitation of children (the so-called register of paedophiles) in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Law on a special register of persons legally convicted of crimes against sexual freedom and morality against children and minors of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina was adopted by the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the session of the House of Representatives on 21 December 2023 and at the session of the House of

Peoples on 25/01/2024, and on 8 February 2024, the Decree on the promulgation of this Law was adopted.

Preventive actions through the work of NGOs, facilitators and coordinators for the Roma population, education programmes in schools, punishment and prosecution of perpetrators of the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings who carry out exploitation through early and forced marriages, and special and general prevention through high criminal sanctions.

The family laws of the Federation of BiH, Republika Srpska and the Brčko District of BiH regulate family-legal relations between spouses, common-law partners, parents and children, adoptive parents and adopted children, guardians and protégées, relations between relatives in a married, common-law or adoptive family, and the procedures of competent authorities concerning family relations and guardianship.

Among other things, Article 35 of this Law stipulates that marriage cannot be concluded by a person under the age of 18. Exceptionally, for justified reasons, the court may, in a non-litigation procedure, allow the marriage of a minor over the age of 16, if it determines that this person is physically and mentally capable of exercising the rights and duties arising from marriage.

The same Law also prescribes the conditions for establishing an adoption in terms of the usefulness of adoption for the adoptee, family status of the adoptee, minimum age of the adoptee, obstacles to adoption, consent of the parents, consent of the adoptee's guardian, personal characteristics of the adoptive parents, preparation of the adoptive parents, citizenship of the adoptive parents, differences in the years between the adoptee and the adoptive parents, special conditions for establishing an incomplete adoption with regard to the minor age of the adopted person, consent of the adopted person, marital or non-marital status of the adoptive parents, special conditions for establishing a full adoption with regard to the age of the adopted person, marital or non-marital status of the adoptive parents, on the basis of which the guardianship authority determines whether prospective adoptive parents are eligible to adopt a child (general eligibility of adoptive parents) and whether the child is eligible to be adopted (general eligibility of adoptees).

Centres for social work (CSW), as part of their regular work and activities, work with families that are at risk and monitor the role and position of children in these families. The legal procedures in our country do not allow child marriages and, before the official marriage, if it happens, an assessment shall be made by the CSW expert team, consisting of a pedagogue, psychologist and a social worker, the competent judicial institutions shall be informed, the procedures for the exclusion, protection and care of children shall be initiated and support provided to children during court proceedings, in accordance with applicable laws and by-laws. Adoption procedures are prescribed by the FBiH Family Law. They prescribe multiple checks and assessments by expert teams and competent authorities, so that there is no possibility of illegal adoption. Where it is identified that a family has "entrusted the child" to other persons without the involvement of the guardianship authority, a case shall be opened and, in cooperation with the competent authorities, the facts of importance for the child determined. If it is determined that there are elements that point to the suspicion of child trafficking or other criminal offences, the competent prosecution authorities and judicial authorities shall be notified, and the child shall be removed from the family and cared for through one of the forms of care prescribed by law.

MFS-EMMAUS carries out continuous activities in the field of prevention and education with the aim of protecting children's rights. Educational campaigns and trainings are organised to raise awareness of the risks of trafficking in human beings, child, early and forced marriages, as well as other forms of exploitation. The programmes are aimed at children, parents, teachers and professionals in educational and social institutions. Special attention is paid to protecting children and reducing their vulnerability, with the support of experts and in accordance with applicable legal procedures.

In the period from 2022 to 2024, the NGO "Zemlja djece u BiH", through a series of projects supported by the US Secretariat of State, the Council of Europe and the USAID/INSPIRE Human Rights Support Programme, organised training for more than 430 experts from areas of social protection, education, health care, and shelters/safe houses. These experts, who are members of local referral mechanisms for the prevention and suppression of child trafficking, are the key actors in creating a protective environment for children who are at risk of trafficking in human beings. The trainings are organised with the aim of recognising the early risks of vulnerability in vulnerable categories in time and to enable multisectoral action in order to prevent child trafficking. A special focus was given to strengthening the capacity of experts to recognise and respond to cases of potential child trafficking, with the aim of strengthening multisectoral cooperation and coordination at the local level. Also, the trainings covered topics such as identification and protection of victims, improvement of procedures for reporting and intervention in cases of child trafficking, as well as work with children who have survived the experiences of trafficking in human beings.

An example of reducing the vulnerability of children to trafficking in human beings is the establishment of integrated services through cooperation between the organisation World Vision in BiH, the Ministry of Security of BiH, the Centre for Social Work Bihac, the Social Protection Service Hadžići and the Service for Foreigners' Affairs. These measures focus on creating a safe environment for children, especially those at risk, such as children and unaccompanied minors in the Ušivak and Borići Temporary Reception Centres. The measures implemented by World Vision in Bosnia and Herzegovina are: **Education and awareness:** Informing parents and WV care-givers about children's rights and possible risks of trafficking in human beings. **Safe spaces:** WV Services "Mother and Baby Friendly Space" and "Child Friendly Space", which provide a safe environment and support to children and their families. **"The 24/7 service for the protection of unaccompanied minors"** provides immediate protection and care for children who are exposed to risks. **Access to social services:** Providing support through social services to meet the basic needs of children, thus reducing their vulnerability. **Legislative and institutional measures:** Improving cooperation between different state and non-governmental organisations in order to create a network of support for children at risk. Together, these measures form a protection system and provide children with the necessary security and support.

b. developing children's life skills (including media literacy and online safety skills), knowledge and participation;

The Agency for Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina within the Financial Mechanism for Implementation of the Gender Action Plan of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period 2018-2022 (FIGAP II) implemented a grant programme in the amount of KM 80,000 for the field of "Gender and Security" through the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in BiH, which, among other things, also included projects relevant to the prevention of trafficking in human beings, such as:

The project **"Toward the improvement of the position of victims of trafficking in human beings in the legal and institutional system"** which improved the capacities of professionals to suppress and fight against trafficking in human beings, through the joint work of professionals from the police, centres for social work and city/municipal services in local communities.

The project **"Facilitating access to information and justice for migrant women in Bosnia and Herzegovina"** within the framework of which a short guide to the fundamental rights of migrants and an overview of competent institutions and organisations that provide support and assistance to competent authorities in the care of migrants was created. The guide was translated into **Urdu, Pashto, Arabic and Persian**, printed in the form of two-page leaflets and distributed in migrant centres.

Professionals involved in working with children undergo various types of training and education, and share the acquired information related to the protection and safety of children with the parents of children at risk and with children at risk through work with local communities or through the procedures they run.

Children at risk are included in the work of day centres that provide a wide range of programmes and activities aimed at preventing trafficking in human beings through children's literacy, information, education, acquisition of certain skills, habits necessary for independent functioning and at least minimal self-protection. Through the programmes implemented by World Vision in BiH in the Temporary Reception Centres Ušivak and Borići, children aged 5 to 18 get the opportunity to develop key skills that help them in everyday life and prepare them for the future. The goal of the programmes implemented by World Vision in Bosnia and Herzegovina is to empower children to become informed and self-confident individuals who are capable of making safe and responsible decisions. To create a culture of support and togetherness within temporary reception centres, where children can develop friendly relationships and a sense of belonging. The measures of that programme are: Formal education: Inclusion of children in the educational system of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Informal education: Workshops and activities that focus on life skills, such as communication, conflict resolution and critical thinking. Involvement and participation: Encouraging children to actively participate in activities and decision-making that affect their lives and environment.

Action plan of the Government of Republika Srpska for combating trafficking in human beings 2024-2027 provides a number of measures and activities aimed at these categories. Among other things, it is planned:

- to increase the degree of involvement of children from vulnerable groups in regular education and to take the necessary measures so that children who are already in the educational system do not leave it,
- Raising the awareness of children and young people about the risks of trafficking in human beings, especially in terms of the misuse of digital technologies.

In Republika Srpska, the subject "Digital World" has been introduced into the educational and scientific curriculum for primary school pupils.

Representatives of the Ministry of the Interior, the High-Tech Crime Unit organise campaigns in primary and secondary schools on a regular basis, with the aim of raising the awareness of pupils, teaching staff and parents about possible risks in the use of technology and the Internet, as well as about the safe way of using them.

Child Friendly Spaces in reception centres represent a programme approach that provides a safe place where activities are organised for children on the move, where children can play, learn, receive psychosocial support, or the necessary information. Children belong to the most vulnerable group and face various risks due to leaving their homes and being exposed to risks during a difficult and uncertain journey. In these situations, the role of the family is weakened because they have to deal with all the difficulties of life on the road, so the protection of children is of crucial importance. The normal daily routine of these children is interrupted, and their experiences are sometimes terrifying. In these circumstances, children need time to overcome trauma and establish a normal daily routine. The focus of Child Friendly Space activities is on establishing personal hygiene habits, encouraging creative expression and preserving mental health through psychosocial workshops, and learning the basics of the Bosnian, English and German languages, geography and basic mathematical operations. The WVBH team promotes immunisation of children through activities with children and conversations with parents during daily visits to families in their accommodation units.

Owing to the support of UNICEF in Bosnia and Herzegovina, during 2016, 2018 and 2021, the Ombudsmen visited all institutions where minors in conflict with the law are subjected to criminal sanctions of an institutional nature in the territory of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska. After the visits, reports were drawn up on the situation in institutions where minors in conflict with the law in Bosnia and Herzegovina are placed. The aim of the analysis and report was to, in addition to promoting the rights of minors in institutions where criminal sanctions of an institutional nature are enforced, try to look at the results of treatment achieved by current solutions in the system of executing criminal sanctions for minors in Bosnia and Herzegovina, to point out examples of good practice in working with minors in conflict with the law and determine the factors

that have a negative impact on the functioning of this system. In 2023, the ombudsmen prepared a Special Report on the care of children without parental care with a special focus on institutions and sent recommendations to the competent executive bodies at all levels. All institutions have strategic documents - action plans for the transformation or deinstitutionalisation of institutions, but the problem is their non-implementation. Bosnia and Herzegovina still has institutions where a large number of children are accommodated, and it is necessary to speed up the processes of deinstitutionalisation and transformation of institutions. The institute of foster care has not come to life in full capacity and there is a lack of foster families, especially specialised foster parents for children with behavioural problems and developmental difficulties. Although adoption is the most desirable and adequate form of protection for children without parents or without adequate parental care, according to the available data, a worryingly small number of children are adopted. A special problem is the lack of adequate institutions for accommodation and work/treatment of children with behavioural disorders and/or with psychiatric diagnoses, and the Ombudsmen point out this problem to all legislative bodies in Bosnia and Herzegovina through their regular annual reports.

The Safe Internet Centre (www.sigurnodijete.ba), which is managed by MFS-EMMAUS, conducted a total of 89 educations for over 3,600 children and young people in the period 2020 - 2024 on safe use of the Internet, recognition of online threats and protection of personal data. Information and tags such as #SurfajSigurno are aimed at raising the awareness of children, parents and professionals of all forms of violence in the digital environment, as well as of the increasingly frequent risks of trafficking in human beings via the Internet.

c. establishing a system for monitoring and reporting cases of abuse;

The protocol for the protection of children from violence, neglect and abuse envisages the protection of the best interests and rights of the child with the aim of preserving the child's physical and psychological health, the prevention of unfavourable socialisation conditions that can harm the integrity and development of the child's personality, as well as the improvement of intersectoral and interinstitutional cooperation with the aim of undertaking timely and effective protection of children's rights and interests due to exposure of children to violence, neglect and abuse.

Centres for social work have established referral mechanisms for detection, recognition, reporting and identification of suspected abuse, developed indicators for recognising the presence of abuse and established procedures for dealing with the identification of suspected abuse, while police officers work on reports of criminal offences, which they deliver to the competent prosecutors' offices.

An SOS line system for reporting abuse has been established, as well as a monitoring and reporting system through the centre for social work or the competent social protection service and the police, i.e. the obligation of natural and legal persons to report abuse or violence is prescribed. In this context, the Protocol on cooperation in providing protection, support, assistance and care for victims of family and community violence and prevention of violence in the Zenica-Doboj Canton has been signed.

SOS lines for reporting and support, as well as web platforms www.sigurnodijete.ba and www.eurcentre.ba:

The SOS line for reporting inappropriate content and all forms of violence against children in the digital environment, as well as the platform www.sigurnodijete.ba, managed by MFS-EMMAUS, have since 2010 enabled the reporting (anonymously or not) of cases of violence against children, reports of inappropriate content and trafficking in human beings. Since 2018, the Safe Internet Centre has been providing free support and advice to children, parents and citizens via the SOS line **0800 22 323**. Also, the web platform www.eurcentre.ba (European Resource Centre) enables the reporting of all forms of trafficking in human beings, anonymously or not.

Through the SOS line for reporting inappropriate content (Hotline), the Safe Internet Centre managed by the International Solidarity Forum - EMMAUS is a long-standing full member of INHOPE (the International Association of Internet Hotlines made up of 54 members from 50 countries around the world). Through the membership of the INHOPE network, MFS-EMMAUS has access to the ICCAM platform, which serves as a portal for the exchange of information between Hotlines worldwide. The ICCAM database is hosted by INTERPOL and serves as a very important channel for INTERPOL's ICSE database as well as the IWOL list.

According to the INHOPE report for the year 2024, more than 700,000 reports were received from all members of the network, and Bosnia and Herzegovina made a significant contribution to this through MFS-EMMAUS. This result is a positive indicator that MFS-EMMAUS successfully fulfils its mission and contributes to global efforts in combatting violence against children in the digital environment as well as all other forms of violence.

In the period 2020 – 2024, using the SOS line for reporting inappropriate content (HOTLINE) MFS-EMMAUS received and analysed a total of 3739 reports, while since its establishment, more precisely since 2010, it has received and analysed more than 4700 reports.

As stated above, in the past 5 years, a large number of reports have been received and analysed:

- 2020 – 145 reports;
- 2021 – 3021 reports;
- 2022 – 215 reports;
- 2023 – 150 reports;
- 2024 – 178 reports.

During 2019, cooperation protocols were signed between the Centre for Safe Internet/MFS-EMMAUS and the Federation Police Administration, the Ministry of the Interior of Republika Srpska and the Brčko District Police to ensure timely recognition and reporting of violence against children and young people in the digital environment, and all other forms of violence against children or adults, including trafficking in human beings.

Although they were signed in 2019, the aforementioned protocols are still being followed. The process of reporting and processing inappropriate content in accordance with the protocols between the foregoing institutions includes several key steps. Every person, child or adult, is obliged to report inappropriate content, which starts the process of identifying the server and notifying the partner SOS line in the server's host country in order to immediately remove the content and protect the victim. The report is then recorded in the ICCAM/ICSE databases of INHOPE and Interpol for international coordination. Furthermore, the report is forwarded to the competent law enforcement agencies, including the FUP and the Brčko District Police, who take the necessary measures to protect the victims and detect the perpetrators. Agencies are contacting Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to ensure content is removed as soon as possible. This procedure ensures coordinated cooperation between institutions and efficient protection of victims, in accordance with international standards.

On the other hand, MFS-EMMAUS through the SOS line for advice and support (HELPLINE) in the period 2020 - 2024 registered a total of 380 inquiries regarding advice and support, of which:

- in 2020 – 35;
- in 2021 – 40;
- in 2022 – 102;
- in 2023 – 84;
- in 2024 (until 1 September) – 119

That is:

- calls: 247;
- e-mail: 66
- Psychological counselling - live: 67.

Through coordination between World Vision in Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNICEF, the Service for Foreigners' Affairs and the Social Protection Service Hadžići, a system was established for monitoring and reporting the abuse of unaccompanied minors inside the Ušivak and Borići Temporary Reception Centres. Through this coordination, World Vision in Bosnia and Herzegovina developed a Guide for dealing with unaccompanied minors, which regulates procedures and responsibilities in case of suspected abuse. The key elements of the established Monitoring System include: defining procedures, staff training, reporting mechanisms, cooperation with local institutions and monitoring and evaluation.

d. providing training for childcare professionals, legal guardians, education professionals;

The respective Judicial and Prosecutorial Training Centres of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska regularly provide training for holders of judicial functions in working with children and minors. Prosecutors of the Prosecutor's Office of BIH also participated in the training organised by international organisations and gained knowledge and experience in working with children and minors. Psychologists in the Prosecutor's Office are also used in every contact with children, who help in working with children. A guardian is appointed for children and minors during the investigation and court proceedings.

Ongoing training and involvement of professionals in training for dealing with trafficking in human beings are carried out depending on the available resources.

Employees of the Institution of Ombudsman are continuously trained in the protection of human rights and freedoms. However, when it comes to specific areas of trafficking in human beings, it should be pointed out that the trainings in which representatives of the Ombudsman Institution participated are few. On 8 September, 2021, in Banja Luka, ombudsman attended a meeting with the delegation of the GRETA Committee, which meeting was an opportunity to exchange opinions, experiences, and observations about the situation in the field of preventing trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina. On 21 March 2022 in Sarajevo, the ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina participated in the Third Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Joint Programme of the European Union and the Council of Europe "Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey 2019-2022", where the topics of the meeting covered Promotion of Diversity and Equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Prevention and combat trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina; on 30 January 2023, a representative of the Institution of Ombudsman participated in the Forum on "Compensation of non-material damages for victims of trafficking in human beings - a step towards good practices" organised by the Centre for Women's Rights Zenica and others; on 11 May 2023, a representative of the Ombudsman Institution attended a regional conference on the topic "Due attention to human rights: Taking action against trafficking in human beings and labour exploitation in supply chains", organised by the Office of the Special Representative and Coordinator for Combatting trafficking in human beings and Illegal Migration of North Macedonia.

The Family Law of Republika Srpska, the Rulebook on Foster Care, as well as the Programme for Preparation for Foster Care regulate the issues of guardianship and foster care.

In the past period, trainings and education were organised for social protection professionals in the field of foster care for children.

Action plan of the Government of Republika Srpska for combating trafficking in human beings 2024-2027 provides activities for the implementation of training and education of child care specialists, legal guardians and education professionals.

Some of the abovementioned activities are also foreseen in other action plans of the Government of Republika Srpska: Action Plan for Combating Cybercrime 2023-2024, Action Plan for the Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children 2023-2024, Action Plan for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and family community. Action plan of the Government of Republika Srpska for combating trafficking in human beings 2024-2027 foresees activities for the implementation of training and education of child care experts, legal guardians and education professionals. Some of the said activities are also foreseen in other action plans of the Government of Republika Srpska: Action Plan for Combating Cybercrime, Action Plan for the Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children, Action Plan for the Prevention of Violence in the Family and the Family Community.

In the period 2020 - 2024, MFS-EMMAUS held 125 educational workshops and webinars for parents/guardians, teachers and other professionals in the education sector. More than 3,600 participants gained knowledge about the prevention of violence against children and gender-based violence in the digital environment. World Vision in BiH, in cooperation with the Social Protection Service Hadžići and the Centre for Social Work Bihać, regularly organises trainings that enable staff working in temporary reception centres to develop the necessary skills for identification, reporting and prevention of trafficking in human beings. The goals of the education are to empower World Vision staff to become active defenders of children's rights and recognise early signs of risk. With this approach, World Vision in Bosnia and Herzegovina and its partners strive to ensure that everyone who works with children is adequately trained and ready to act in the interest of their safety and well-being.

During 2024, "Novi put" organised a two-day training for child care experts, legal guardians, education professionals with the aim of reducing the vulnerability of children to trafficking in human beings.

e. access to education and health care for vulnerable children, including members of minority groups, unaccompanied migrant children and children of migrant workers;

The Law on Foreigners ("Official Gazette of BiH", Nos. 88/15, 34/21 and 63/23) defines that temporary residence for humanitarian reasons may be granted to a foreigner who does not meet the conditions for granting temporary residence prescribed by this law, if it is a victim of trafficking in human beings or a minor child of a foreigner if abandoned or a victim of organised crime, or if the child was for other reasons left without parental protection, guardianship or unaccompanied. A foreigner who has been granted temporary residence as a victim of trafficking in human beings has the right to adequate and safe accommodation, access to emergency medical care, psychological assistance, information on legal status, legal assistance in the process of pursuing status issues, access to the labour market under the conditions that apply to foreigners, as well as access to professional training and education. A child who has an approved temporary residence as a victim of trafficking in human beings has the right to access education.

Action plan of the Government of Republika Srpska for combating trafficking in human beings 2024-2027 foresees activities related to the gender dimension of trafficking in human beings:

- Strengthen cooperation with the private sector, with the aim of raising awareness of the role and responsibility of business entities in preventing trafficking in human beings, as well as providing support and assistance in the rehabilitation and resocialisation of victims of trafficking in human beings.
- Strengthen the capacities of competent institutions for managing labour migration by providing information on safe and legal opportunities for work and employment of both foreign nationals who work in Republika Srpska and citizens of Republika Srpska who go

abroad to work. The Law on Health Care of Republika Srpska, the Rulebook on the Method of Providing Health Care and the Rulebook on the Content and Scope of the Right to Health Care prescribe that children under the age of 18 have the right to compulsory health insurance. The Law on Health Care of Republika Srpska is based on the principle of equality, exclusively according to medical indications.

The Law on Basic Education of Republika Srpska stipulates that every child has equal rights and equal opportunities in primary education without discrimination on any ground. Equal rights and equal opportunities imply the provision of equal conditions for all children at enrolment and during primary education.

Also, this Law stipulates that foreign nationals and stateless persons have the right to primary education in the Republic in accordance with conventions and agreements concluded with other countries or international organisations.

Through various activities and agreements with international organisations, primarily through cooperation with UNICEF, unaccompanied children are included in the regular school system in cantons where there are temporary reception centres. Health care for children citizens of BiH, regardless of national, religious or ethnic belonging, is provided either through parents or through the protection system in local communities (through municipal bodies), while for children on the move, health care is provided through the support system in Temporary Reception Centres.

The Law on Education in Primary and Secondary Schools of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of the Brčko District of BiH", Nos. 20/20-consolidated text, 24/20, 01/23 and 31/23) regulates access to education:

As part of activities on accommodation, assistance and provision of health care for children of minority groups, children of unaccompanied migrants as well as children of migrant workers, MFS-EMMAUS took care of ninety (90) migrants - unaccompanied minors during 2020, and provided them with direct assistance services (accommodation and treatment, food, clothing, hygiene items, health services, including hospitalization and psychosocial support).

World Vision BiH, in cooperation with UNICEF and relevant institutions, provides formal and informal education for refugee children, migrants and asylum seekers. Through the services provided by World Vision in BiH within the temporary reception centres, the following is ensured: **1. Inclusion in formal education:** In cooperation with the Ministry of Education of Sarajevo Canton, Ilidža First Primary School and 9 May Pazarić Primary School, the inclusion of migrant children from the Ušivak Temporary Reception Centre was ensured. **2. Informal education:** Opportunities for informal education were provided through the Akelius platform, for children of both temporary reception centres in Sarajevo and Bihać. **3. Professional training:** In cooperation with the Ministry of Education of Sarajevo Canton and the Hadžići Secondary School Centre, cook and hairdresser courses, intended for unaccompanied minor foreigners, were organised. **4. Health care:** **1. Access to health services:** Ensuring basic health care for children through cooperation with health organisations in TRC and the organisation of systematic examinations and health workshops for children and their families in order to increase awareness of health and its importance. **2. Mental health:** Inclusion of psychosocial support through work with psychologists and social workers to help children cope with traumatic experiences and challenges of migration and organisation of workshops to strengthen children's emotional resilience.

f. birth registration for all children born in the country.

In the course of 2024, the Ombudsmen Institution prepared a Special Report on the prevention of the risk of statelessness in Bosnia and Herzegovina (the Special Report will be published and presented to the public by the end of 2024/November). In this regard, we highlight the following: on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, keeping vital records is at the entity level and is regulated by the Law on

Registers of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Law on Registers of Republika Srpska and the Law on Registers of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina. According to the information received from the registry offices, there are no records of persons who applied for registration in the birth register and who did not have the necessary documents at the time of application (children born in health care institutions in BiH, children born outside health care institutions in BiH, children born abroad and who are children of BiH citizens), for the reason that there is no such obligation prescribed by regulations. Parties who do not have the necessary documentation are given legal advice on how to obtain such documentation. Ex officio, in order to exercise the rights of the parties, registry offices establish good cooperation with other registry services in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

3. What measures are being taken in your country to address vulnerabilities related to the gender dimension of trafficking in human beings?

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, at the proposal of the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Gender Action Plan of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period 2023-2027 (GAP BIH) was adopted by the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the 26th session held on 18/10/2023. This is the fourth strategic document for the realisation of gender equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and one of its goals is the prevention and suppression of gender-based violence in the public and private sphere, as well as all forms of trafficking in human beings, through the establishment of an effective protection and prevention system.

The operational plan for the implementation of GAP BIH envisages the implementation of the following measures relevant to addressing vulnerabilities related to the gender dimension of trafficking in human beings:

- Implementation of activities from the Strategy and AP for combatting trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period 2020-2023 related to the improvement of gender equality;
- Report on witness protection measures in cases of gender-based violence, trafficking in human beings and the application of the Rules on the Protection of Victims and Witnesses of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Provide and promote available telephone lines to support victims of trafficking in human beings;
- Increase the capacities of shelters for victims of trafficking in human beings and consult victims of trafficking in human beings on the services they need in shelters;
- Provide financial resources for non-governmental organisations that run shelters for victims of domestic violence, as well as trafficking in human beings;
- Strengthening the capacity of expert teams for investigating criminal offences of trafficking in human beings, which includes the deployment of the appropriate profile and the required number of investigators;
- Enact programmes of measures to improve access to education and economic resources for women and girls, who are in the risk category for trafficking in human beings;
- Organising activities to raise the awareness of children and young people, and groups under special risk (Roma, children who do not attend school) of different forms and harmful consequences of trafficking in human beings, as well as various promotional activities aimed at prevention.

When drafting the proposal for the Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings in BiH 2024-2027, a gender-specific approach was used: the peculiarities of trafficking in human beings are also reflected in the differences between trafficking in women and men, in the forms of exploitation of victims and methods of recruitment. For this reason, measures to help and support victims should be gender-specific, taking into account the different needs of male and female victims, and it is necessary to integrate a gender-sensitive approach into the Strategy and action plans for implementing the Strategy.

The guardian, as a representative of the guardianship body, provides protection to an unaccompanied foreign minor who has survived gender-based violence. A specific support plan, including psychological support, is included in the individual protection plan led by the guardian. The World Vision psychotherapist provides individual support to the minor, in cooperation with the appointed guardian. The Social Protection Service is informed about everything.

In the event that a minor has been raped, the World Vision guardian and the police station shall be notified, and the minor provided with a safe place. Priority in providing assistance focuses on medical assistance and medical procedures focused on reproductive health, psychological first aid and a special protection plan. The medical examination is performed exclusively at the Emergency Medicine Clinic (EMC), where the doctor issues a report and expert opinion. In close communication with the Social Protection Service and the Service for Foreigners' Affairs, the World Vision guardian continues to provide adequate support to the minor.

Action plan of the Government of Republika Srpska for combating trafficking in human beings 2024-2027 foresees activities related to the gender dimension of trafficking in human beings:

- Ensure that women are involved as police officers in investigations into criminal offences of trafficking in human beings in which potential victims are women, especially in situations of suspected sexual exploitation and forced marriages
- Develop new and improve existing capacities (safe houses/shelters) for providing assistance to women victims of sexual exploitation, bearing in mind the multiple forms of victimisation (rape, physical violence, gender discrimination, provision of sexual services) to which these victims were exposed because they are women
- Create assistance programmes for girls who are victims of forced marriages in accordance with their needs

4. What concrete measures are being taken to reduce vulnerability of vulnerable minorities to trafficking in human beings? Please provide information on policies and measures in the following areas:

- a. research;
- b. information, awareness and education campaigns;

In accordance with the Decision on marking significant dates in the field of human rights, the Ministry of Security is in charge of marking 18 October, the EU Anti-trafficking Day, and within its budget it plans to allocate the amount of 10,000 convertible marks for this purpose. Namely, every year, depending on the adoption of the budget, the Ministry of Security announces a Public Call to non-governmental organisations to mark the EU Anti-trafficking Day through joint activities. Depending on the data gathered on the ground, a campaign to raise awareness of trafficking in human beings for various forms of exploitation is organised every year. When marking the EU Anti-trafficking Day in 2022, a campaign was carried out focusing on arranged child marriages. In 2023, the topic was "Trafficking in human beings within migration movements", and in 2024, the campaign "Raising public awareness of trafficking in human beings via the Internet and technology" is planned.

Action plan of the Government of Republika Srpska for combating trafficking in human beings 2024-2027 foresees the activities related to the gender dimension of trafficking in human beings:

- Implementation of specific campaigns to raise awareness of trafficking in human beings aimed at the most vulnerable groups,
- Implementation of activities to raise awareness of trafficking in human beings within Roma communities through the involvement of Roma mediators,
- Raising public awareness of the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings in terms of the possible exploitation faced by migrants passing through the region.

On 30 July, 2024, on the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, the IOM started a digital campaign to raise awareness of the problem of trafficking in human beings in BiH with a focus on labour exploitation, the risks of trafficking in human beings in digital spheres and sports, as well as the

problems of begging and forced marriages, predominantly among the Roma population. The campaign runs until 18 October 2024, marking the EU Anti-trafficking Day, and seeks to promote understanding of indicators of trafficking in human beings, encourage reporting of suspicious activity and encourage empathy for survivors.

World Vision in BiH supports and works on the systematic establishment of Mobile Teams for the proactive identification of potential victims of trafficking in human beings and has so far established and supported 11 Mobile Identification Teams (MIT) in strategically selected locations (Sarajevo, Bihać, Mostar, Tuzla, Živinice, Bijeljina, Bosanska Krupa, Cazin, Zvornik, Banja Luka, Visoko). The locations were chosen based on the major migrations of children and adults who find themselves begging on the street, the largest number of Roma communities and the movement of people on the move, i.e. the migrant population. The structure of the abovementioned teams consists of representatives of the centre for social work and the police, and in certain locations cultural/Roma mediators are also involved (Tuzla and Živinice). The teams were formally and systematically established by the consent of the competent ministries and/or by the Decisions of the city local authorities on the establishment of such a teams to work on the prevention, early identification, reporting and first assistance. At the same time, with the aim of proactive action, the teams work with children and families who are at risk and have a certain degree of vulnerability, cooperate with other relevant actors at the local level in order to prevent and protect potential victims. All members of the Mobile Teams, i.e. representatives of the social work centre and the police, have undergone a series of trainings on proactive action, and training for the certification of professionals for working with minors has also been provided.

In the period of the previous 5 years, MFS-EMMAUS has organised a total of 53 workshops with over 1350 participants, professionals in the field of combating trafficking in human beings, which includes representatives of civil society organisations, centres for social work, centres for mental health, representatives of law enforcement agencies and other professionals. In addition to the foregoing, a large number of citizens are familiar with the concept of trafficking in human beings, as well as with the ways of recognising this criminal offence, as well as with the reporting and support mechanisms, through the realisation of five (5) innovative online campaigns. In addition to the online campaign, MFS-EMMAUS also implemented traditional campaigns during the said period, as part of which a total of six (6) radio jingles were developed and broadcast throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, and six (6) video materials were also developed. A total of 11 different posters were also developed and printed, as well as 6 leaflets distributed throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In the above-mentioned period, MFS - EMMAUS developed 5 publications through numerous projects, including the *Minimum standards for the support of victims of trafficking in human beings, especially children in Bosnia and Herzegovina*, which were adopted by the BiH Council of Ministers on 09/05/2023.

In addition to the foregoing, MFS-EMMAUS has also developed an educational picture book *"Everything you need to know about trafficking in human beings"* intended for informing children along with professionals, educators, teachers, parents.

c. socio-economic initiatives aimed at fundamental and structural causes;

Action plan of the Government of Republika Srpska for combating trafficking in human beings 2024-2027 foresees the activities related to the gender dimension of trafficking in human beings:

- Strengthen cooperation with the private sector, with the aim of raising awareness of the role and responsibility of business entities in preventing trafficking in human beings, as well as providing support and assistance in the rehabilitation and resocialisation of victims of trafficking in human beings.
- Strengthen the capacities of competent institutions for managing labour migration by providing information on safe and legal opportunities for work and employment of both

foreign nationals who work in Republika Srpska and citizens of Republika Srpska who go abroad to work.

Centres for social work have established referral mechanisms for the detection, recognition, reporting and identification of suspected abuse, developed indicators for recognising the presence of abuse and established procedures for dealing with the identification of suspected abuse, while police officers work on criminal offence reports, which they deliver to the competent prosecutors' offices.

d. education, vocational training and employment programmes.

Action plan of the Government of Republika Srpska for combating trafficking in human beings 2024-2027 foresees the activities related to the gender dimension of trafficking in human beings:

- Increase the degree of involvement of children from vulnerable groups in regular education and take the necessary measures so that children who are already in the educational system do not leave it.
- Create and implement programmes to combat prejudices, stereotypes and discrimination against Roma children in educational systems
- Strengthen and further improve mechanisms for the reintegration of victims of trafficking in human beings.

TRAININGS IN 2021

WORLD VISION

- 8 trainings for strengthening the capacity and cooperation of institutions and presenting Guidelines for the actions of competent institutions and authorised organisations in combating trafficking in human beings in BiH, a total of 143 participants.
- 4 trainings in Trafficking in human beings and social justice in Bosnia and Herzegovina/ a total of 112 participants.
- 4 trainings for members of local referral mechanisms for proactive identification of child (potential) victims of trafficking in human beings, a total of 96 participants.
- 4 trainings for members of local referral mechanisms for handling cases of all forms of child exploitation in accordance with the signed Protocols, a total of 96 participants.

PACT PROJECT-GIZ

Within the framework of the PaCT project, two regional workshops were organised in connection with combating trafficking in human beings:

- Regional workshop: "Building capacity to prevent trafficking in human beings in the Western Balkans with a special focus on the health sector" (February 2021)
- Regional workshop: "Development of capacity to prevent trafficking in human beings during COVID-19 and similar crises" (April 2021)

MSF-EMMAUS

In December, one TTX-type training was held in Strengthening the multidisciplinary approach and institutional responses through recommendations for more advanced action policies to respond to the problem of trafficking in human beings.

- 1 training, 30 participants who are members of local coordination teams for combating trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina. (December 2021)

COUNCIL OF EUROPE PROJECT "Preventing and Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina"

- 5 trainings in the protection of private life and personal data of victims of trafficking in human beings, a total of 66 participants (June, July and September 2021)
- 5 basic trainings in trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation, a total of 61 participants (January, March, November and December 2021)
- 1 advanced training in trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation, a total of 16 participants (December 2021)
- 1 training for legal experts in child trafficking, a total of 25 participants (September 2021)

TRAINING IN 2022

"VERMONT" YOUTH CENTRE

CAMPAIGN "DAY CARE CENTRE - OUR BIG-HEARTED HOUSE" - With the support of Save the Children, multi-day trainings were held in each of the centres where children were taught to use the media and social networks more responsibly. This was followed by online work with mentors on the preparation of campaigns, so that the entire process would result in the publication of media content with children's messages and the organisation of advocacy events. As part of the campaign, the emphasis is on combatting trafficking in human beings and the protection of children who live and/or work on the street.

ROUND TABLE "SYSTEMIC SOLUTION FOR DAY CARE CENTRES" - On 21/11/2022 a round table - a systemic solution for day-care centres was held with the aim of advocating and lobbying for a systemic solution for the functioning of the Day-care Centres. The round table was attended by all relevant institutions and organisations of civil society that are essential for the work of the Day Care Centre and that deal with children's issues (Police of the Brčko District of BiH, Department of Education of the Brčko District of BiH, Sub-Department for Social Protection). The conclusion of the round table is that it is necessary to connect all institutions and organisations with the aim of drafting by-laws and legal acts for the standardisation and accreditation of the work of Day Care Centres.

MARKING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN "16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM" - During the 16 days of activism, various activities were held, such as promotional activities through social networks with the aim of sending messages about non-violence, peace and tolerance, a street action on Youth Square in which the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the "Vermont" Youth Centre and young people participated with the aim of providing support to victims of violence, and an initiative was sent to open a reception centre in the area of the Brčko District of BiH. In order to gain the support of citizens, and to make the public aware of the problems faced by victims of violence, as well as institutions that deal with this issue in a disorderly system, during the street campaign, citizens had the opportunity to support the establishment of the reception station by signing pre-prepared postcards, which are addressed to the Government of the Brčko District of BiH.

CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS

The Centre for Women's Rights from Zenica held a total of 11 events during 2022, consisting of eight (8) consultative and informative sessions and three (3) meetings, one of which was held online (31 January 2022), with 52 participants: 32 male and 27 female persons. Participants in the meetings were

representatives of the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the State Coordinator, the Head of the Anti-Trafficking Department, the Director of the USAID/INSPIRE programme, representatives of centres for social work, and a representative of the American Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The aim of the consultative and informative sessions was to inform and familiarise the members of the regional monitoring teams (RMT) with the mechanisms and ways of involving specialised organisations in the process of identification and protection of trafficking victims, who, due to their expertise, can offer high-quality technical assistance to competent institutions, providing legal assistance to victims. Profiles of RMT members (10 cantonal RMTs, RMT of the Brčko District of BiH, RMTs from the regions of Banja Luka, Doboj, Prijedor, Bijeljina) include appointed representatives from the judiciary (prosecutors), social protection, mental health centres, education, labour inspectors, NGOs (RMTs of ZDC and CBC – 28/02/2022; RMT of BD BIH and TC – 30/03/2022; RMT of SC and BPC – 30/05/2022; RMT of BANJA LUKA REGION – 17/06/2022; RMT of USC and Canton 10 – 24/06/2022; RMT of PC – 30/08/2022; RMT of HNC and WHC – 27/09/2022).

The role of the BiH Ministry of Security was to coordinate and inform the RMT coordinators about the planned activities, in order for most competent RMT members to respond/be encouraged to participate, connect, exchange and learn.

The activities were carried out under the auspices of the USAID/INSPIRE Support Programme for the Protection of Human Rights and the project "Step towards good practices in the protection of the rights of victims of trafficking in human beings".

In addition, a representative of the Centre for Women's Rights, as a participant and then as an educator, took part in the following four events/trainings:

1. Regional training for coaches - Skopje, North Macedonia, 24-27 May 2022

Topic: "Strengthening the capacity of experts to identify victims of trafficking in human beings" - (Prevention and Fight against Human Trafficking in the Western Balkans - GIZ and Ministry of Security of BiH).

Tools: (Health indicators for identification of victims of trafficking in human beings and potential victims of trafficking and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) in emergencies)

2. Training "Prevention and Fight against Human Trafficking: The role of health institutions in prevention and proper approach to cases of trafficking in human beings", Teslić, 30/06/- 01/07/2022 – (within the joint project of the European Union and the Council of Europe "Preventing and Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina").

3. Training for healthcare workers in BiH, Sarajevo BiH, 03/10/2022

Topic: "Strengthening the capacity of experts to identify victims of trafficking in human beings" - (Prevention and Fight against Human Trafficking in the Western Balkans - GIZ and Ministry of Security of BiH)

Tools: (Health indicators for identification of victims of trafficking in human beings and potential victims of trafficking and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) in emergencies).

4. Training "Prevention and Fight against Human Trafficking: The role of health institutions in prevention and proper approach to cases of trafficking in human beings", Igman, 24-25 October 2022 – (within the joint project of the European Union and the Council of Europe "Preventing and Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina").

WORLD VISION

1. Training: Local Level Training for municipalities to operate the newly developed protocols for coordination and assistance to child victims of forced labour and forced begging.

Participants: professionals working with children from all the sectors involved in the local referral mechanism (police, social workers, health workers, schools, relevant NGOs, city administration, national anti-trafficking teams etc.)

Purpose: Skill Building, Raising Awareness

Municipalities: Vitez, Jajce, Konjic, Jablanica, Canton Sarajevo, Bihać, Donji Vakuf, Gornji Vakuf-Uskoplje, Una-Sana Canton, Mostar, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, Prijedor, Sanski Most, Ključ, Posavina Canton, Brčko, Visoko, Breza, Čelić, Tuzla

Number of participants: 196

Total number of trainings: 8

Dates and location of training event: February, March, May, June, September, October, November (Neum, Sarajevo, Konjic, Vlačić, Prijedor)

2. Training: Local Level Training for municipalities for proactive identification of potential VoT, focus on children, and standards of child victim protection, assessing and determining the best interests of the child

Participants: professionals working with children from all the sectors involved in the local referral mechanism (police, social workers, health workers, schools, relevant NGOs, city administration, national anti-trafficking teams etc.)

Purpose: Skill Building, Raising Awareness

Municipalities: Vitez, Jajce, Konjic, Jablanica, Canton Sarajevo, Vitez, Jajce, Konjic, Jablanica, Canton Sarajevo, Bihać, Donji Vakuf, Gornji Vakuf-Uskoplje, Una-Sana Canton, Mostar, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, Sanski Most, Ključ, Posavina Canton, Brčko, Visoko, Breza, Čelić, Tuzla

Number of participants: 167

Total number of trainings: 8

Dates and location of training event: February, March, May, June, September, October, November (Neum, Sarajevo, Konjic, Vlačić)

3. Training: TiP and Social Justice

Participants: members of anti-trafficking teams, professionals and first responders working with children) from Tuzla Canton, District Brčko and Bosnia Podrinje Canton

Purpose: Skill Building

Number of participants: 23

Total number of trainings: 1

Dates and location of training event: January 27-28, Tuzla

4. Intersectoral workshop: Referral action in the field of prevention and treatment in cases of begging and other forms of child exploitation

Participants: members of anti-trafficking teams and local first responders (police and centre for social welfare) from all municipalities of Una-Sana Canton, Central Bosnia Canton, Zenica Dobož Canton

Purpose: Skill Building, Raising Awareness

Total number of participants: 99

Total number of trainings: 3

Dates and location of training event: Una Sana Canton (December 8, Bihać), Central Bosnia Canton (December 15, Vitez), Zenica Dobož Canton (December 22, Zenica)

TOTAL NO. OF TRAININGS: 20

TOTAL NO. OF PARTICIPANTS: 485

IOM BiH

Specialized training on trafficking in human beings organised by IOM BiH in 2022:

1. "Training based on real case simulations - Desktop exercises for key participants of the innovative referral mechanism/coordination mechanism for combatting trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina", 25-28 January 2022, Sarajevo.

Number of participants: 41 (21 M, 20 F) from the Prosecutor's Office of BiH, cantonal Ministries of Internal Affairs (MUPs) (C10, WHC, USC, TC) and prosecutor's offices (C10), Service for Foreigners' Affairs, SIPA, Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Welfare HNC, NGO (Žene s Une, Vaša Prava, Zemlja djece u BiH), CSW Mostar and SC, IOM, World Vision and OSCE. The very conceptualisation of the training (methodology) as well as its implementation (formation of the training team) was done in coordination with the MoS BiH and the Office of the State Coordinator for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings.

2. "Proactive identification of victims of trafficking in human beings in mixed migration flows - focus on staff employed in the temporary reception centre Lipa", 15-18/02/2022, Bihać.

Number of participants: 83 (41 M, 42 F) from IOM, UNFPA, IPSIA BiH, World Vision, DRC, Service for Foreigners' Affairs, Žene s Une, MBC Fenix Alternative Kakanj, UNICEF, JRS, Medecins du Monde, Red Cross USC. The training was organised in consultation and cooperation with the Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Office of the State Coordinator for Combating Human Trafficking.

3. Training of trainers for the revised police curriculum – 29 March - 1 April 2022, Sarajevo.

Number of participants: 13 (8 M, 5 F) from MUP SC, ZHC, HNC, CBC, TC, ZDC, Border Police (BP), SIPA, Service for Foreigners' Affairs, Police Academy FMUP, CPRC. Training and revision of the curriculum carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Office of the State Coordinator for Combating Human Trafficking.

4. Trial simulation "Trafficking in human beings- prosecution of perpetrators in the context of mixed migration flows" May 18-20/05/2022, Mostar.

Number of participants: 24 (12 M, 12 F) from the Prosecutor's Office of BiH, municipal courts (Kiseljak, Banovići, Sarajevo, Travnik, Čitluk), cantonal prosecutor's offices (SC, USC, HNC), Service for Foreigners' Affairs, MUP WHC, MUP BPC, BP, SIPA. The training was organised in cooperation with CEST FBiH and the Office of the State Coordinator for Combating Human Trafficking.

5. A) "First specialist training for police officers according to the revised manual on trafficking in human beings" 26-27 May 2022, Mostar.

B) "Second specialist training for police officers according to the revised manual on trafficking in human beings" 15-16 June 2022, Igman

C) "Third specialist training for police officers according to the revised manual on trafficking in human beings" 29-30 June 2022, Sarajevo

Through three specialist trainings, 93 police officers (57 M, 36 F) from the Service for Foreigners' Affairs, BP, SIPA, 10 cantonal MUPs, Federation Police Administration (FUP) were trained.

The training was organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Office of the State Coordinator for Combating Human Trafficking.

6. "Proactive identification of victims of trafficking in human beings in mixed migration flows - focus on field team personnel in BiH", 4-5 July 2022, Jahorina.

Number of participants: 36 (20 M, 16 F) from IOM, UNICEF, DRC, Red Cross FBiH and USC, Save the Children, Ministry of Security (MoS) of BiH, UNHCR. This training was organised in cooperation with the Outreach Coordinator of the MoS BiH and the Office of the State Coordinator for Combating Human Trafficking.

7. "Trafficking in human beings - protection of the rights of victims of trafficking in human beings and the position of victims according to the practice of the European Court of Human Rights" - XX Counselling in the field of criminal law, 3 June 2022, Neum.

Number of participants: 39 (25 M, 14 F) from the Supreme Court of FBiH, Court of BiH, CEST FBiH/RS, FUP, Cantonal Courts in Bihać, Tuzla, Municipal Courts in Tuzla, Bihać, Sarajevo, Banovići, District Public Prosecutor's Office Banja Luka, KPZ Tuzla, Basic Court Brčko District, Basic Court Gradiška, Cantonal Prosecutor's Office Sarajevo, MoS BiH.

8. Training for facilitators of information sessions for migrants, 7-8 September 2022, Sarajevo.

Number of participants: 49 (28 M, 21 F) from IOM and Vaša Prava.

9. XV annual prosecutor's symposium, Panel III "The importance of the digital environment in combatting trafficking in human beings", 18-20/10/2022, Neum.

Number of participants: 32 (11 M, 21 F) from the Federation Prosecutor's Office, the Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Cantonal Prosecutor's Office of Travnik, Tuzla, Sarajevo, Bihać, Zenica, the Republic Prosecutor's Office of Banja Luka, the Federation Prosecutor's Office, RS MUP, the Brčko District Police, the Cantonal Court of Bihać, the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, IOM, OSCE, CoE, EMMAUS.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Project "Preventing and Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina". Specialized training on trafficking in human beings organised in 2022.

1. Training: "Preventing and combatting trafficking in human beings: The role of educational institutions in the system of protecting children from human trafficking", Sarajevo, 24 – 25/03/2022. It was realized in cooperation with the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina (professional/coordination) and the Ministry of Education and Science of Sarajevo Canton (professional/invitation to participants) Participants: 30 persons (representatives of primary and secondary schools of Sarajevo Canton, centres for social work, non-governmental organisations).

2. Training: " Preventing and combatting trafficking in human beings: The role of educational institutions in the system of protecting children from trafficking in human beings", Banja Luka, 31/03 – 01/04/2022. It was realized in cooperation with the Coordinator for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings in Republika Srpska (professional/introductory presentation), the Ministry of Education and Culture of Republika Srpska (professional/invitations and closing presentation), the Coordinator for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings in the Brčko District and the Education Department of the Government of the Brčko District of BiH (professional/invitations). Participants: 29 persons (representatives of primary and secondary schools, centres for social work, non-governmental organisations).

3. Online training: "Trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation" of the HELP programme (Human rights education for legal experts) of the Council of Europe, online, April - June 2022. It was realized in cooperation with the Ministry of Security of BiH (professional/coordination

and introductory presentation) and Judicial and Prosecutorial Training Centres of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska (professional/invitations). Participants: 25 persons, 11 of whom are certified (prosecutors, social workers, labour inspectors, police and representatives of non-governmental organisations).

4. Training: "Preventing and combatting trafficking in human beings: The role of educational institutions in the system of protecting children from human trafficking", Brčko, 19 May 2022. It was realized in cooperation with the Ministry of Security of BiH (professional/coordination), the Coordinator for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings in the Brčko District and the Education Department of the Government of the Brčko District of BiH (professional/invitations). Participants: 29 persons (primary and secondary schools of the Brčko District).

5. Training: "Preventing and combatting trafficking in human beings: The role of educational institutions in the system of protecting children from human trafficking", Sarajevo, 26/05/2022. It was realized in cooperation with the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina (professional/coordination) and the Ministry of Education and Science of Sarajevo Canton (professional/invitation to participants) Participants: 26 persons (primary and secondary schools of Sarajevo Canton).

6. Training: "Preventing and combatting trafficking in human beings: The role of health institutions in prevention and proper approach to cases of human trafficking", Teslić, 30/06-01/07/2022. It was realized in cooperation and coordination with GIZ and the Ministry of Security of BiH (professional/coordination). The implementation was directly supported by the Coordinator for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings in Republika Srpska (professional/introductory presentation), the Ministry of Health of Republika Srpska (professional/invitations and presentation), the Coordinator for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings in the Brčko District and the Department of Health/Mental Health Centre of the Brčko District of BiH (professional/invitations and presentation) Participants: 24 professionals from the field of healthcare (health facilities in Banja Luka, Bijeljina, Brčko, Doboј, Prnjavor, Sarajevo, Teslić, Tešanj, Velika Kladuša and Zenica).

7. Training in child trafficking prevention through age assessment of children at risk, and consultations on age assessment procedures in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Konjic, 26 - 27 July 2022. It was realized in cooperation with the Ministry of Security of BiH (professional/coordination and moderation of consultations). Participants: 31 participants (representatives of the Border Police, the Service for Foreigners' Affairs, the Asylum Sector and the Immigration Sector of the Ministry of Security of BiH, Ministries of the Interior at all levels, Ministries of Health and Social Protection, Centres for Social Work).

8. Training session: "Technologically enhanced child trafficking", within the XV annual symposium of prosecutors in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Neum, 18-20 October 2022. It was realized in cooperation with OSCE BiH, IOM BiH, MFS-EMMAUS (financial), as well as the Association of Prosecutors of FBiH, Judicial and Prosecutorial Training Centres of the Federation of BiH and Republika Srpska (professional/organisational). Participants: 25 experts (prosecutor's offices and police at all levels).

9. Training " Preventing and combatting trafficking in human beings: The role of health care institutions in prevention and proper approach to cases of human trafficking", Igman, 24-25 October 2022. It was realized in cooperation and coordination with the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the State Coordinator (professional/coordination and presentation), coordinators for combatting trafficking in human beings of the FBiH, RS and the Brčko District, the Federation Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Health of RS and the Department of Health of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina (professional/ invitations). Participants: 28 health workers from 14 cities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

10. Training: "Protection of private life and personal data of victims of human trafficking", Sarajevo, 22/11/2022. It was realized in cooperation with the Ministry of Security of BiH/State Coordinator (professional/coordination and presentation). Participants: 11 representatives of non-governmental

organisations (signatories of the protocol on providing assistance and accommodation for victims of trafficking in human beings).

11. Training: "Protection of private life and personal data of victims of human trafficking", Sarajevo, 23/11/2022. It was realized in cooperation with the Ministry of Security of BiH (professional/coordination and presentation) and the Association of Spokespersons of Prosecutor's Offices. Participants: 16 spokespersons of institutions (prosecutors' offices, police).

GIZ

During 2022, within the framework of the PaCT project (Preventing and Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings in the Western Balkans), which GIZ implements in cooperation with the Ministry of Security of BiH, two trainings were held:

- Regional training for coaches - Skopje, North Macedonia, 24-27 May 2022.

Topic: "Strengthening the capacity of experts to identify victims of trafficking in human beings "

Tools: Health indicators for identification of victims of trafficking in human beings and potential victims of trafficking - Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) in emergencies

The role of the BiH Ministry of Security was to coordinate the selection and delegation of BiH representatives. Number of BiH representatives: 3

- Training for healthcare professionals in BiH, Sarajevo BiH, 03/10/2022

Topic: "Strengthening the capacity of experts to identify victims of trafficking in human beings"

Tools: Health indicators for identification of victims of trafficking in human beings and potential victims of trafficking

Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) in emergencies

The role of the Ministry of Security was to coordinate with the competent health care institutions in FBiH, RS and the Brčko District the selection of training participants. The Ministry also provided space for training, lunch and refreshments for the participants.

The number of participants is 17

Representatives of primary health care public institutions of (Health Centres) from Republika Srpska, FBiH and the Brčko District.

Representatives of the BiH Ministry of Security

OTAHARIN - BIJELJINA

In the course of 2022, two workshop modules were realised in 4 cities, in the order as follows:

1. In the period from **26 to 27 September 2022** a two-day informative and educational workshop was held for members of the Working Group for the Protection of Child Safety in Bijeljina. With this meeting, we started the first module of workshops that will contribute to strengthening the capacity of professionals involved in the work of these groups.
2. On **3 and 4 October** a two-day educational and informative workshop was held in Zvornik. The workshop was held with the aim of strengthening the capacity of professionals. The workshop was attended by 17 participants (13 female and 4 male). They were very interested in the issue of trafficking in human beings, but also quite ignorant of the referral mechanisms that exist in their local community, as well as in the Entity. This training was only the beginning of the complete programme that these professionals will go through and was aimed at familiarising and introducing the participants to a topic that is extremely extensive.
3. In the period from **10 to 11/10** two-day educational and informative workshops were also held in Dobo. The workshop was attended by 18 participants (3 male and 15 female). They showed

their desire to participate, had a large number of questions and actively participated in the workshop.

4. In the period from **8 to 9/11** the first module of educational and informative workshops was held in the Brčko District with the aim of strengthening the capacity of professionals. The local group for the protection of child safety in Brčko has five members. They all attended the first module, but apart from them, representatives of other relevant institutions also attended the module. The total number of participants in the workshop was 21 (18 female and 3 male).
5. In the period from **17 to 18/11** the second module of two-day educational and informative workshops was held in Bijeljina. The workshops were attended by 15 participants (13 female and 2 male). The topic of the II module was "The phenomenon of trafficking in human beings and child trafficking". The participants' attention was drawn to the Conventions that all European countries rely on, including our country, when it comes to handling cases of trafficking in human beings (Palermo Protocol, Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA report), but also our legislation at the state and entity levels).

The goal of the workshop was for the participants to see how a child feels and what a child goes through as a victim of trafficking in human beings and what role they as professionals have in combatting this phenomenon.

6. In the period from **23 to 24/11** the second module of two-day educational and informative workshops was held in Zvornik. There were 15 participants (12 female and 3 male). As mentioned above, the topic of the II module was "The phenomenon of trafficking in human beings and child trafficking".
7. In the period from **28 to 29/11** the second module of two-day educational and informative workshops was held in Dobo. The workshops were attended by 13 participants (10 female and 3 male).
8. In the period from **20 to 21/12** the second module of educational and informative workshops was held in the Brčko District with the aim of strengthening the capacity of professionals. The workshop was attended by 17 participants (15 female and 2 male).

OSCE MISSIONS TO BIH

1. **Workshop "Risk assessment and prevention of trafficking in human beings in supply chains", 09/06/2022, Sarajevo.** Number of participants: 36 (16 M, 20 F)

(Judiciary: 3, Law enforcement agencies: 8, Public procurement: 2, International organisations: 6, Non-governmental organisations: 9, Ombudsman: 1, Trade unions: 1, Labour inspection: 4 and Business sector: 2).

Realised in cooperation with the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Anti-Trafficking Department.

2. **Training for members of the TC MUP, 14/06/2022, Tuzla**

Number of participants: 29 (Judiciary: 2 and Law Enforcement Agencies: 25). Realized in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior of TC and the Coordinator for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings in TC.

3. **Seminar: Trafficking in human beings and terrorism where and how they intertwine, 07/08/2022, Sarajevo**

Number of participants: 19 (9 M, 10 F) (Judiciary: 5, Law Enforcement Agencies: 6, Tax Administration: 1, International organisations: 1 and Non-governmental organisations: 6).

Realized in cooperation with the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Anti-Trafficking Department and the respective Judicial and Prosecutorial Training Centres in RS and FBiH.

4. XV Counselling of prosecutors in BiH, Panel III "The importance of the digital environment in combatting trafficking in human beings", 18-20 October 2022, Neum

Number of participants: 32 (11 M, 21 F) (Judiciary: 18, Law Enforcement Agencies: 7, Centres for Social Work: 1, International organisations: 3 and Non-governmental organisations: 3). Realised in cooperation with the Judicial and Prosecutorial Training Centres in RS and FBiH and the Association of Prosecutors in the FBiH.

5. Victim-centred approach in combatting trafficking in human beings, training for members of the Regional Monitoring Teams in Republika Srpska

Number of participants: 21 (11 M, 10 F) (Judiciary: 6; Law Enforcement Agencies: 7, Labour Inspection: 3 and Centres for Social Work: 5). Realized in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior of RS and the Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in RS.

6. Workshop, case study of combatting trafficking in human beings, 09/12/2022, Banja Luka.

Number of participants: 19 (4 M, 15 F) - Students

Realized in cooperation with the Faculty of Law of the University of Banja Luka.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY FORUM - EMMAUS

1. On 25/01/2022, *"Presentation and training for the use of the e-form for reporting on activities to combat trafficking in human beings for international and civil society organisations in Bosnia and Herzegovina"*, number of participants 18 (Ministry of Security of BiH - 4, International organisations - 4 and CSOs - 10).
2. On 14 and 15 March 2022, *"Management of projects to support victims of trafficking in human beings based on a logical framework and management based on results for civil society organisations within the project Voice of Civil Society Organisations in Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings"*, number of participants 24 (CSO-22 participants (from 15 CSOs) and other experts – 2).
3. On 23 and 24 March 2022, *Workshop for building and strengthening the capacity of professionals who provide psychosocial and other forms of assistance and protection to victims of trafficking in human beings and persons at risk in Bosnia and Herzegovina as part of the project: "PreACT - Prevention of violence against children in the digital environment and trafficking in human beings through raising awareness and providing psychosocial support to victims of trafficking in human beings"*, number of participants 20 (CSO -5 participants (from 3 CSOs), CSW-6, Centre for Mental Health/SOS Villages /Psychologists - 8 and other experts-1.
4. On 24 and 25 March 2022, *Workshop for professionals who provide psychosocial and other forms of assistance and protection to victims of trafficking in human beings on the prevention of professional burnout as part of the project: "PreACT - Prevention of violence against children in the digital environment and trafficking in human beings through raising awareness and providing psychosocial support to victims of trafficking in human beings "*, number of participants 20 (CSO - 5, CSW-10 and Centre for Mental Health (CMH)/SOS Villages/Psychologists - 5).
5. On 5 – 7/04/2022, *Work on the SOS telephone line and direct assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings Workshop for civil society organisations within the project Voice of civil society organisations in combatting trafficking in human beings*, number of participants: 18 (CSO-18 (from 12 CSOs)).
6. On 30/06/ – 1/07/2022, *"Tabletop Exercises (TTX) - multisectoral and multidisciplinary workshops for members of coordination bodies and professionals of the referral system for victims of trafficking in human beings within the project "PROACTIVE approach to preventing trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina", which is supported by USAID/INSPIRE and the project "Voice of civil society organisations in combatting trafficking in human beings", supported by the European Union*, number of participants 20 (CSO-8, Local Coordination Teams (LCT)-12 (police officers-2, CSW-2, prosecutors' offices-3, Ministry of Social Policy Goražde-1, FBIH Tax Administration - 1, Ministry of Health of ZeDo Canton-1, Employment Service Goražde-1 and International organisations-1).
7. On 5-6/07/2022, *Tabletop Exercises (TTX) - multisectoral and multidisciplinary workshops for members of coordination bodies and professionals of the referral system for victims of trafficking in human beings within the project "PROACTIVE approach to preventing trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina", which is supported by USAID/INSPIRE and the project "Voice of civil society organisations in combatting trafficking in human beings "*, which is supported by the European Union, number of participants 23 (CSO-9, LCT-14 (police officers-7, CSW-4, prosecutors-1), International organisation-1 and Government of Sarajevo Canton (SC) -1).
8. On 15-16 September 2022, *Proactive identification of victims of trafficking in human beings in the state referral mechanism, within the project: "PROACTIVE approach to preventing trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina", supported by USAID/INSPIRE and the project "Voice of civil society organisations in combatting trafficking in human beings"*, supported by the

European union, number of participants: 35 (CSO-12, CSW-12, CMH-7 and Others-4 (2 psychologists + 2 members of the GV identification team)).

9. On 26 and 27 September 2022, *Tabletop Exercises (TTX) - multisectoral and multidisciplinary workshops for members of coordination bodies and other representatives of referral system institutions for victims of trafficking in human beings, within the project "PROACTIVE approach to preventing trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina", which is supported by USAID/INSPIRE and the project "The voice of civil society organisations in combatting trafficking in human beings", supported by the European Union*, number of participants: 14 (CSO-12, Intern. org. - 2, CSW-6, Prosecutors-4, Police officers/LCT-10, Ministries and Services/LCT-6 and Educational centres/CMH-4).

10. On 29 and 30 September 2022, *Presentation and training for the application of the e-form for reporting on the implementation of activities to combat trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina within the project "Voice of civil society organisations in combatting trafficking in human beings", which is supported by the European Union*, number of participants: 28 (CSO-23, International org.-2 and Ministry of Security of BiH - 3).

11. On 6-7 October 2022, *"Identification of victims of trafficking in human beings and other vulnerable groups" within the project "PROACTIVE approach to preventing trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina", supported by USAID/INSPIRE and the project "Voice of civil society organisations in combatting trafficking in human beings", supported by the European Union*, number of participants: 27 (CSO-23 (from 14 CSOs)).

12. On 17-20 October 2022, *"XV Annual Prosecutorial Symposium in Bosnia and Herzegovina" Neum; Panel III - The significance of the digital environment in combatting trafficking in human beings within the project "PROACTIVE approach to preventing trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina", supported by USAID/INSPIRE*, number of participants 32 (CSO-3, Intern. org.-4, Prosecutors-13, Judge- 1, Police officers-7, Other experts 4 (psychologist, 1, CSW-1, Legal aid-1, MoS-1)).

13. On 27- 28/10/2022, *Workshop in the field of public advocacy for civil society organisations, within the project "PROACTIVE approach to preventing trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina", supported by USAID/INSPIRE and the project "Voice of civil society organisations in combatting trafficking in human beings", supported by the European Union*, number of participants: 22 (CSO-22 (from 14 org)).

14. On 7 and 8 November 2022, *Tabletop Exercises (TTX) - multisectoral and multidisciplinary workshops for members of coordination bodies and professionals in the state referral system for victims of trafficking in human beings within the project "Voice of civil society organisations in combatting trafficking in human beings", which is supported by the European Union and "PROACTIVE approach to preventing of trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina", supported by USAID/INSPIRE*, number of participants: 53 (CSO-15 (from 6 org), LCT/RMT (Regional Monitoring Team)-Police officers-13, LCT/RMT-others-6, CSW-9, CMH- 7 and other-3 (prosecutor 1, experts-2)).

15. On 10 and 11 November 2022, *Access to the protection of human rights and greater involvement of direct users in all phases of the project cycle*, number of participants: 29 (CSOs-27 (from 13 organisations) and other experts-2).

TRAININGS IN 2023

As part of the Project "Direct assistance to children and adolescents living and working on the street - DIREKT" implemented by the association "Žene sa Una" and supported by the USAID/INSPIRE Human Rights Protection Support Programme, we held two trainings, namely:

1. 3x1 training on the topic of trafficking in human beings for representatives of institutions (Police, Centres for Social Work, Health Care Institutions, Educational Institutions). The

training was held in March 2023, where representatives of 9 institutions took part (Ministry of the Interior of USC (Una-Sana Canton), Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Policy of USC, Pedagogical Institute of USC, Cantonal Administration for Inspection Affairs, Coordination Team of USC in combatting trafficking in human beings, the administrative body of the city of Bihać, the administrative body of the city of Cazin, the administrative body of the city of Bosanska Krupa and the administrative body of the municipality of Sanski Most,); 7 Centres for Social Work (Bihać, Bosanska Krupa, Sanski Most, Ključ, Velika Kladuša, Cazin and Bosanski Petrovac); 7 health care institutions (Cantonal Hospital "Dr. Irfan Ljubijankić", General Hospital Sanski Most, Health Centre Bihać, Centre for Mental Health Velika Kladuša, Cazin, Bosanska Krupa and Ključ); Educational institutions (Faculty of Law, University of Bihać, Primary School Gornje Prekounje Bihać, Primary School Kamenica, First Primary School Bosanska Krupa, Mixed Secondary School Bosanska Krupa, Medical Secondary School, II Primary School Cazin, Primary School Prekounje, Primary School Harmani, Mechanical Engineering and Traffic Mixed Secondary School (MSMSŠ) Bihać, General Education Secondary School Bosanska Krupa, Social and educational life community (Bihać, Velika Kladuša and Bosanska Krupa) which consists of 63 professionals.

2. 3x1 specialised training for representatives of civil society organisations (CSOs), where representatives from 17 CSOs took part, making a total of 32 representatives.

OTAHARIN BIJELJINA

The aforementioned trainings were implemented within the project "**NO CHILD WITHOUT PROTECTION**" supported by the USAID/INSPIRE Human Rights Protection Support Programme. Namely, within the abovementioned project, Otaharin designed the **Capacity Improvement Programme for Child Trafficking Prevention**, which consisted of four modules (the first two were realised in 2022, and the second two in 2023). The topics of the modules were as follows:

- 1) Needs and problems in the protection of children's safety at the local level;
- 2) The phenomenon of trafficking in human beings and child trafficking;
- 3) Indicators and prevention for trafficking in human beings and child trafficking;
- 4) Social justice and protection of victims of child trafficking.

In 2023, the third and fourth modules of the aforementioned Capacity Improvement Programme for the Prevention of Child Trafficking were implemented in the following order:

Module III - Indicators and prevention of trafficking in human beings and child trafficking

1. On 2 and 3 February 2023 two full-day educational and informative workshops for professionals were held covering the topic Indicators and prevention of trafficking in human beings and child trafficking in **Bijeljina**. The workshop was attended by 13 participants, 10 female and 3 male, representatives of institutions from the city of Bijeljina.
2. On 14 and 15 February 2023 two full-day educational and informational workshops for professionals were held covering the topic Indicators and prevention of trafficking in human beings and child trafficking in **Zvornik**. The workshop was attended by 16 participants, 11 female and 5 male, representatives of Zvornik institutions.
3. On 20 and 21 February 2023 the third module was also held in the **Brčko District**. The module was attended by 15 participants (11 F and 4 M).
4. On 23 and 24 February 2023 the third module was also held in **Doboj**. The module was attended by 14 representatives of the institutions of the city of Doboj (10 female and 4 male).

IV Module - Social justice and protection of victims of child trafficking

1. The fourth module in **Zvornik** was organised on 24 and 25 April 2023. The module was attended by 14 participants, 4 male and 10 female, members of the newly established Local Group for the Protection of Child Safety in the city of Zvornik/representatives of Zvornik institutions.

2. The fourth module was held in **Bijeljina** only one day after the module held in Zvornik, on 27 and 28 April 2023. The module was attended by 16 participants, 5 male and 11 female/representatives of the institutions of the city of Bijeljina.
3. The fourth module in **Brčko** was organised on 25 and 26 May 2023. The module was attended by 17 participants, 5 male and 12 female, professionals/representatives of institutions dealing with the protection of children's safety.
4. The fourth module was held in **Doboj** on 29 and 30 May 2023. The module was attended by 11 participants, 2 male and 9 female.

NOTE: Given that the project was implemented in 4 local communities (Bijeljina, Doboj, Brčko District and Zvornik), all trainings were attended by representatives of city administrations, centres for social work, kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, police stations, health centres and hospitals, as well as non-governmental organisations. As part of this project, and on the initiative of Otaharin, Working Groups for the Protection of Children's Safety were established in Zvornik, Brčko and Doboj. The Bijeljina Working Group was founded back in 2012, and following the example of Bijeljina, these groups were also established in the abovementioned cities.

WORLD VISION

1. Training: Training at the local level for municipalities to manage the newly developed protocols for coordination and assistance to child victims of forced labour and forced begging

Participants: members of the ATIP RMT of Zenica-Doboj Canton, representatives of local primary and secondary schools, the centre for social work, the police, health care institutions, certified safe houses.

Purpose: Building skills, raising awareness

Municipalities: Zenica-Doboj Canton

Number of participants: 36

Total number of trainings: 1

Dates and place of training: April, Sarajevo

2. Training: Training at the local level for municipalities for proactive identification of potential child abusers, focus on children and child victim protection standards, assessment and determination of the best interests of the child

Participants: members of the ATIP RMT of Zenica-Doboj Canton, members of 8 established MITs and representatives of local primary and secondary schools, the centre for social work, the police, health care institutions and certified safe houses.

Purpose: Building skills, raising awareness

Municipalities: Zenica-Doboj Canton

Number of participants: 59

Total number of trainings: 2

Dates and place of training: April, Sarajevo and Tuzla

3. Training: Gender and Social Justice

Participants: members of the ATIP RMT of Central Bosnia Canton, Una-Sana Canton and Zenica-Doboj Canton, as well as experts and emergency workers who work with children) from the same cantons

Purpose: Building skills

Number of participants: 86

Total number of trainings: 2

Dates and place of training: March-April 2023

4. Training: Referral action in the field of prevention and treatment in cases of begging and other forms of exploitation of children

Participants: members of ATIP RMT Sarajevo and the Brčko District and emergency services (centre for social work, police station commander, criminal police officers, members of local non-

governmental organisations, members of the mobile identification team) from all municipalities in the canton

Purpose: Building skills, raising awareness

Total number of participants: 116

Total number of trainings: 3

Dates and place of training: Sarajevo Canton (February 9-10, Sarajevo), Brčko District (February - April, Brčko)

5. Training: Professional development of experts who, in the application of the Law, work in the field of juvenile delinquency, protection of children in criminal proceedings, i.e. authorized officials

Participants: members of established mobile identification teams from the Federation of BiH, social workers and police officers (Mostar, Sarajevo, Tuzla, Bihać, Visoko, Živinice)

Purpose: Skill Building, Certification

Total number of participants: 28

Total number of trainings: 1

Dates and place of training: Sarajevo (25-26 October)

TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINING IN 2023: 9 (Nine)

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 325

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

During 2023, the Council of Europe project implemented 4 specialised trainings, and the total number of participants who attended the trainings was 100 professionals.

• **PANEL ON "ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND EFFECTIVE REMEDIES FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING", HELD WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE XXI COUNSELLING IN THE FIELD OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, NEUM, 2 JUNE 2023.** It was realized in cooperation with the Association of Judges of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Associations of Judges and Prosecutors and Training Centres from all levels of government in Bosnia and Herzegovina (expert and financial support/coordination). Participants: 35 persons (representatives of judicial functions),

• **WORKSHOP ON "COOPERATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE CAPACITY OF PROVIDERS OF LEGAL SUPPORT AND FREE LEGAL AID TO VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING", KONJIC, 20-21 JULY 2023.** It was realized in cooperation with the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina (expert and financial support/coordination). Participants: 15 persons (representatives of the following institutions: Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina, NGO Centre for Women's Rights, Association "Novi početak", Law Office, Cantonal Institute for Free Legal Aid Sarajevo, Cantonal Institute for Legal Aid Odžak, Cantonal Institute for Free Legal Aid Bihać, Centre for Human Rights in Mostar, "Vaša prava" Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina, County Institute for Free Legal Aid Livno).

• **WORKSHOP ON "DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL PROTOCOLS FOR THE PREVENTION, DETECTION AND INVESTIGATION OF CASES OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS FOR THE PURPOSE OF LABOUR EXPLOITATION", KONJIC, 25-26 JULY 2023.** It was realized in cooperation with the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina (expert and financial support/coordination). Participants: 25 persons (representatives of the following institutions: Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ministry of the Interior of Republika Srpska, Ministry of the Interior of Zenica-Doboj Canton, Cantonal Administration for Inspection Affairs Zenica - Doboj Canton, Cantonal Administration for Inspection Affairs Bihać, Ministry of the Interior of Canton 10, Cantonal Administration for Inspection Affairs of Tuzla Canton, Republic Administration for Inspection Affairs (Labour Inspection Sector) - Bijeljina Department, East Sarajevo Department, Police Administration of MUP of Bosnia-Podrinje Canton, Ministry of Justice and Administration of Central Bosnia Canton, Federation Administration for Inspection Affairs, Police of the Brčko District of BiH, Employment Service of Central Bosnia Canton, Police Departments in Doboj, Prijedor,

Bijeljina, Banja Luka, East Sarajevo and Trebinje, MUP of Una-Sana Canton in Bihać, MUP of Herzegovina-Neretva Canton in Mostar).

• **PANEL ON "TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS AS A FORM OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE", HELD IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE XVI ANNUAL PROSECUTORIAL SYMPOSIUM IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, NEUM, 17-19 OCTOBER 2023.** It was realized in cooperation with the Judicial and Prosecutorial Training Centres of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska, the Association of Prosecutors of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the OSCE Mission to BiH, the Atlantic Initiative of BiH and the International Forum of Solidarity-EMMAUS (expert and financial support/coordination) Participants: 25 persons (representatives of the state, entity and cantonal prosecutor's offices, Judicial and Prosecutorial Training Centres of the FBiH and RS, the Public Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Serbia, the Association of Judges and Prosecutors of Serbia, the Bihać Cantonal Court, the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Federation Police Administration).

VAŠA PRAVA BIH

- USAID PROJECT

On 9 June 2023, a round table on cooperation and coordination in combatting trafficking in human beings among migrants and refugees was held. This important meeting brought together distinguished experts who presented their knowledge, experiences and best examples from practice.

The first topic we dealt with was "Identification and response to cases of trafficking in human beings and smuggling by competent asylum/migration authorities". A prosecutor from the Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina, shared his views and the key steps that competent asylum and migration authorities can take to effectively identify and respond to such cases. He mentioned specific cases from practice that highlighted problems in identifying victims of human trafficking. He emphasised the importance of the cooperation of all administrative, judicial, non-governmental and police participants in the process of protecting victims and prosecuting perpetrators of the criminal offence of human trafficking.

The second topic was "Overcoming barriers to reporting trafficking in human beings and smuggling among migrants and refugees: lessons learned and best practices". A Professor from the Faculty of Criminology, Criminology and Security Studies shared valuable lessons and examples of best practices to improve mechanisms for reporting trafficking in human beings and smuggling among vulnerable migrants and refugees. The professor gave a special overview of current trends and future steps in combatting human trafficking. His expert presentation highlighted the importance of monitoring and adapting strategies to effectively combat this phenomenon.

The third topic focused on "Improving cooperation between the asylum/migration system and combatting human trafficking: challenges and opportunities". State coordinator for combatting trafficking in human beings, from the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, presented important information about general trends and current reports related to migrant smuggling in Bosnia and Herzegovina. According to IOM and EUROPOL reports, migrant smuggling is a serious challenge in our country.

He highlighted the security risks that migrants face during their travels, as well as the factors that make them particularly vulnerable to human trafficking. Their illegal status and lack of adequate protection often put them at risk.

He placed special emphasis on the need to persistently identify victims of trafficking in human beings within the migrant and refugee population. This requires close cooperation between the anti-trafficking system and the international protection system in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The last topic was "Protecting the rights of victims of trafficking in human beings in asylum and migration systems: challenges and solutions". A legal advisor of the Association Vaša prava BiH, gave valuable insights into the challenges that arise when protecting the rights of victims of trafficking in human beings in the context of asylum and migration, as well as the need to find sustainable solutions. The legalised status of migrants is extremely important for the protection process. Ensuring the legal status of migrants provides them with greater security and facilitates access to the international

protection system. Legalisation allows migrants to exercise their rights, including protection against human trafficking. Therefore, it is crucial that the anti-trafficking system and the international protection system in Bosnia and Herzegovina are harmonised in order to support migrants in the process of obtaining legal status and ensure their protection.

This Round Table provided valuable insights and encouraged further reflection on how to improve cooperation and coordination in combatting trafficking in human beings among migrants and refugees. We would like to thank the USAID INSPIRE programme for its support and all the lecturers for their engagement and expertise.

CFLI PROJECT (Canada)

On 9 February 2023 the conference "Rules for the Protection of Victims and Witnesses of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings - BiH Citizens - Theory and Practice" was held, organised by Vaša prava BiH with the support of the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (*Fonds Canadien d'Initiatives Locales*), being an important event in combatting trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This conference gathered over 40 participants, legal professionals, representatives of BiH institutions and law enforcement agencies, civil society organisations and other relevant participants, thus creating a unique opportunity for interaction and exchange of knowledge and experiences.

The participants of the conference were greeted by the political and public affairs adviser at the Embassy of Canada in Budapest, who emphasised the importance of combatting human trafficking, stressing that Canada is strongly committed to the values of inclusion and responsibility, respects diversity and human rights, with a focus on the rights of women and girls.

The conference was focused on the protection of victims and witnesses of trafficking in human beings and organised crime in Bosnia and Herzegovina with an emphasis on women, girls and children in the most vulnerable communities, citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The conference discussed the latest developments and trends in the protection of victims and witnesses of human trafficking, as well as challenges and best practices in the field, especially considering the fact that the majority of identified victims of trafficking in human beings in recent years were citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which further reiterates the stronger institutional response to domestic victims of human trafficking.

A large number of participants joined the discussion and exchange of opinions. It was emphasized that the insufficient identification of victims of human trafficking is a significant problem in combatting this criminal offence, and it occurs when state institutions and organisations for the protection of human rights fail to recognise victims of human trafficking, or when the victims themselves do not seek help or are afraid to report trafficking.

Different problems were also highlighted and it was stated that the importance of cooperation between different institutions and actors in the chain of combating trafficking in human beings cannot be overestimated. Trafficking in human beings is a complex problem that cannot be countered by simple solutions or without the cooperation of various actors, therefore cooperation between various institutions and actors in the chain of combating trafficking in human beings is essential for the successful suppression of this form of crime. Also, such cooperation enables the exchange of information and experiences among the participants, which leads to the creation of new approaches and strategies for combatting human trafficking.

It was also emphasised that victims of trafficking in human beings often face victimization, discrimination and stigma, which makes it difficult for them to return to normal life, and it is necessary to provide such victims with support and assistance to enable their recovery and integration into society.

In the end, the conference "Rules for the protection of victims and witnesses of victims of trafficking in human beings - BiH citizens - theory and practice" organised by Vaša prava BiH with the support of the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (*Fonds Canadien d'Initiatives Locales*), showed the importance of the cooperation of different institutions and participants in combatting this crime. Such gatherings are important because they enable the exchange of information and experiences, as well as the establishment of new collaborations and partnerships. These conferences also help to identify best practices in combatting trafficking in human beings and encourage innovation in this area.

Therefore, it is necessary to continue supporting such activities and work on strengthening cooperation between state institutions, non-governmental organisations and other relevant actors in order to strengthen combatting trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

On 25-26 May 2023 in order to continue the activities started to strengthen the capacity of competent state bodies and other relevant entities in combatting migrant smuggling, the association "Vaša prava BiH" organised a training entitled "Current situation and practice in the field of preventing irregular migration and combatting migrant smuggling in Bosnia and Herzegovina". The aim of this training is to review the situation in the stated area, and the response of state institutions in terms of combatting migrant smuggling, with the aim of increasing the capacity of competent state bodies and relevant civil society organisations to recognise, prevent and deter migrant smuggling on the Western-Balkan route, as well as to strengthen regional cooperation.

The training was practically oriented with a lot of interactive work, with a focus on combatting migrant smuggling, and targeting the differences with the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings in BiH. The training itself will be divided into several parts (with topics: Current situation and practice in the field of preventing irregular migration and combating migrant smuggling in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Smuggling of migrants in the Western Balkans - route through Bosnia and Herzegovina - legal framework and practice; and Strengthening of cooperation between institutions and civil society in the areas of migrant protection and prevention of irregular migration in the Western Balkans region with a focus on Bosnia and Herzegovina) in which issues, challenges and practical work will be discussed on the basis of case studies from practice, in order to best convey knowledge and skills and exchanged experiences in current trends and in combatting this phenomenon, and in order to additionally develop skills in prevention and the necessity of taking adequate measures in combatting migrant smuggling. At the same time, the goal was to further strengthen and sensitise all actors working on these issues, and to provide answers regarding the undertaking of more efficient measures and activities performed by Bosnia and Herzegovina in this regard.

The training was attended by representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina, namely from the prosecutor's offices (Prosecutor's Office of BiH, a training educator, Prosecutor, with associates), Investigation and Protection Agency of BiH - SIPA, Border Police of BiH, and the Ministry of Security of BiH (training educator, Assistant Minister), Service for Foreigners' Affairs, as state bodies responsible for the reception and care of migrants. The training was also attended by colleagues from Serbia (Prosecutor's Office and Ministry of the Interior), in order to deepen the cooperation between institutions in the cross-border response to these phenomena. Among other things, at the training, the issue of identification of victims of THB was mentioned, and the use of the application developed by the Ministry of Security for easier identification of THB victims was brought up again. In addition, the BiH prosecutor mentioned the preparation of Guidelines for the protection of the rights of victims of trafficking in human beings, and one of the guidelines refers to the representation of victims during pre-investigation and criminal proceedings, and the realisation of a property legal claim. It was also mentioned that the Ministry of Justice of BiH is working on drafting a law on compensation for victims of THB, and that the working group includes representatives of the BiH Prosecutor's Office.

IOM BIH

Project: " Western Balkans joint actions against smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings" (WBJAST)

1) Regional conference "*Combating trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants in the Western Balkans in the digital context*", 6-7 February 2023, Budva

The two-day conference was based on a focused discussion and exchange of information between key actors involved in the response to combatting trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling, who represent international, EU and partners from the Western Balkans, with a focus on the digital sphere (in the context of investigations as well as trafficking in human beings itself)

Participants: Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina (1), SIPA (1), State Prosecutor's Office (1), Service for Foreigners' Affairs (1), Border Police (2)

The role of BiH institutions was reflected in the provision of professional support through participation in the event.

2) Annual meeting of representatives of the Task Force for combatting smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings and human trafficking coordinators from the Western Balkans, 8 February 2023, Budva

The topics of the regular annual meeting concerned cross-border cooperation, capacity building and approaches focused on victims and communities.

Participants: State Prosecutor's Office (1), SIPA (1), Border Police of BiH (2)

The role of BiH institutions was reflected in the provision of professional support through participation in the event.

3) Sub-regional training based on the simulation of conducting parallel investigations in cases of smuggling of migrant and trafficking in human beings, 3-6 April 2023, Jahorina

The focus of the sub-regional training was on interviews aimed at victims, especially children, within the framework of the process of parallel investigations for key representatives from BiH, Serbia and Montenegro.

Participants: Ministry of Security of BiH (1), Prosecutor's Office of BiH (2), Border Police of BiH (2), Service for Foreigners' Affairs (1), SIPA (3), Court of BiH (1), Cantonal Centre for Social Work (1)

The role of BiH institutions was reflected in the provision of professional support through participation in the event.

4) Meeting of the Task Force for combating trafficking in human beings and organised illegal migration: *Special Consideration of the Criminal-Legal Framework and Procedural Assumptions for Strengthening Inter-Agency Cooperation in the Field of Combating Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in human beings in Mixed Migration Flows*, 25 April 2023, Sarajevo

Participants: Prosecutor's Office of BiH (4), Federation Ministry of the Interior (2), Tax Administration of FBiH (1), Service for Foreigners' Affairs (1), Border Police of BiH (1), Tax Administration of RS (1), Prosecutor's Office of the Brčko District (1), Public Prosecutor's Office of Republika Srpska (1), SIPA (1), Federation Prosecutor's Office of BiH (1)

Realisation/organisation by the BiH Task Force with the support of the IOM.

5) Ad-hoc bilateral operational meeting between BiH and Serbia, 1 September 2023, Belgrade
Operation "Barbados" (smuggling)

Participants: Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina (1), Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina (4)

The organisation of the meeting was supported by the IOM, where the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina led the investigation process.

Cooperation was initiated at the Annual Meeting of Task Forces organised in Budva (February 2023) and additionally planned during the trilateral simulation organised in Jahorina (April 2023), and the final actions were agreed at the bilateral operational meeting held on 1 September in Belgrade, which resulted in the arrest of the smugglers on 13 September 2023.

6) Regional round table "*Strengthening the judicial response to trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants in the context of mixed migration movements*", 16-17 November 2023, Sarajevo

Topics:

- Sustainable remote translation services - a tool for improved cross-border cooperation in the Western Balkans response to mixed migration movements
- Applying a victim-centred approach throughout criminal proceedings - migrant population - risks and vulnerabilities

- The role and use of digital evidence in court proceedings

Participants: Court of BiH (3), Ministry of Security of BiH (2), Prosecutor's Office of BiH (9), Border Police (1), Service for Foreigners' Affairs (1), Institution of Human Rights Ombudsman in BiH (1)

The role of BiH institutions was reflected in the provision of professional support where representatives took part either through the role of moderators, panellists or participants.

7) Regional round table "*Strengthening cross-border cooperation between partners who provide protection and support services to victims of trafficking in human beings in the Western Balkans*", 12-13 December 2023, Tirana

The topics of the regional round table concerned the improvement of the system for providing direct assistance; programmes of (re)integration and rehabilitation, and research on cross-border referrals and assistance.

Participants: EMMAUS, Žene s Une, WV

Given that the participants came from the non-governmental sector, BiH institutions did not participate in the realisation of the round table.

MFS – EMMAUS

1. **Coordination meeting** (International organisations, non-governmental organisations, MFS-EMMAUS Institutions; Anti-Trafficking Department at the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina; USAID INSPIRE), Professionals / participants / organisers, on 28 February 2023, Participants: 33;

2. **Mental health protection and psychosocial support to victims of trafficking in human beings through referral, rehabilitation and reintegration processes and prevention of burnout among professionals who provide this type of support** (Non-governmental organisations, Institutions MFS-EMMAUS; GIZ), Professionals / participants, on 18 and 19 April 2023, 19 participants from centres for social work, cantonal courts;

3. **Treatment of victims of trafficking in human beings in the State referral mechanism** (Non-governmental organisations, Institutions: Non-police professional officers of MFS-EMMAUS; USAID INSPIRE), Professionals / participants, on 8 and 9 May 2023, 45 participants from centres for social work, centres for mental health;

4. **Treatment of victims of trafficking in human beings in the State referral mechanism** (Non-governmental organisations, Institutions: Non-police professional officers of MFS-EMMAUS; USAID INSPIRE), Professionals / participants, on 9 and 10 May 2023, 39 participants from centres for social work, centres for mental health;

5. **Coordination meeting** (International organisations, non-governmental organisations, MFS-EMMAUS Institutions; Anti-Trafficking Department at the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina; USAID INSPIRE), Professionals / participants / organisers, on 25 May 2023, participants: 17;

6. **Advocating for the rights of victims of trafficking in human beings** (Providers of free legal aid MFS-EMMAUS; USAID INSPIRE), Professionals / participants, on 25 and 26 May 2023, participants: 14;

7. **TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS AS A FORM OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE** within the framework of the consultations of prosecutors in Neum (Institutions: Atlantic Initiative, MFS EMMAUS, OSCE and Council of Europe); professional role of representatives of institutions through panels, on 17/10/2023, 28 participants from the Court, Prosecutor's Office, Federation Police Administration;

8. **VI TTX Workshop: Strengthening capacity, referral mechanism, multidisciplinary approach and institutional responses to the problem of trafficking in human beings in BiH** (non-governmental organisations, institutions: MFS-EMMAUS; European Commission), professionals / participants, on 7 and 8 November 2023, 39 participants from mental health centres, centres for social work, cantonal MUPs, BD BiH police, legal aid institutes, cantonal prosecutor's offices, Federation Police Administration.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS CENTRE

Please note that the Women's Rights Centre implemented its activities with the support of the USAID/INSPIRE Human Rights Protection Support Programme. We would like to thank the Ministry of Security, the Office of the State Coordinator and the employees for their support, which was reflected in connecting with key actors in the field, participating in activities, and the support shown through participation in recording of videos and media statements.

Forums entitled "Compensation for non-material damages for victims of trafficking in human beings in the framework of criminal proceedings - a step forward towards good practices": January - September 2023

The forums were designed as a kind of continuation of the consultative-advocacy process realised in 2022, which, in addition to the members of the regional/coordination teams for the suppression of human trafficking, included a wider professional public consisting of judges, prosecutors, courts associates, a wider circle of representatives of social protection services, mental health centres, health centres, CSOs, media.

The forums were a place where the professional public addressed the problems, the urgency of the need to equalise the rights to health, social and all other forms of protection for victims of human trafficking, regardless of whether they are placed in safe houses or not. Through this form of expert consultation, we collected relevant data that illustrate the situation and argue for the necessity of urgent intervention by all actors for proactive involvement in advocacy processes to ensure the protection of the rights of victims of trafficking in human beings in criminal proceedings, but also in other proceedings before institutions in BiH.

In the period from January to September 2023, 88 employees, representatives of 64 institutions from all over BiH participated in the Forums. Regardless of whether they come from a smaller or larger local community (35 cities/municipalities) in BiH, and within the scope of their work, they all made a maximum contribution and it is important to mention: the cantonal/district courts of Bihać, Goražde, Zenica, Sarajevo, Trebinje, Banja Luka; Republic Public Prosecutor's Offices in Banja Luka and Trebinje, Brčko District Prosecutor's Office, Cantonal Prosecutor's Offices of Zenica-Doboj, Herzegovina-Neretva, West Herzegovina, Sarajevo and Una-Sana Cantons; municipal/primary courts from Konjic, Bihać, Sanski Most, Zvornik, Bijeljina, Travnik, Tuzla, Trebinje; social protection institutions and centres for social work from the municipalities/cities of Čitluk, Bihać, Velika Kladuša, Cazin, Municipality of Centar Sarajevo, Municipality of Novi Grad Sarajevo, Hadžići, Visoko, Zavidovići, Vareš, Breza, Olovo, Jajce, Novi Travnik, Orašje, Tuzla, Banovići, Kladanj, Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Bijeljina, Bileća, Ljubinje, Trebinje, Pale, Zvornik, Nevesinje, Višegrad, Derventa, Gradiška; BiH Ministry of Security; Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Policy of Una-Sana Canton, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Bosnian-Podrinje Canton, Ministry of Labour, Social Policy, Displaced Persons and Refugees of Sarajevo Canton; The Office of the State Coordinator and the Office of the Republic Coordinator for Suppression of Human Trafficking, Institution of the Human Rights Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sarajevo and Banja Luka offices); The Pedagogical Institute of the Tuzla Canton, the Institute for Addiction Diseases of Zenica-Doboj Canton and the NGO Lara Foundation from Bijeljina.

The respectable number and structure of the participants of the Forum are a sufficient argument that the urgent intervention of all actors is necessary, in order to ensure the protection of the rights of victims of trafficking in human beings in criminal proceedings, but also in proceedings before other institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Several key conclusions of all Forums are:

- the property claim should be decided on within the framework of criminal proceedings, which is justified by reasons of procedural economy - so that the courts would not have to discuss the same

facts again in two different proceedings, i.e. so that the same evidence would not have to be presented again in civil proceedings and the injured party traumatised again;

- it is necessary for the institutions in the protection system to have constant communication with specialised non-governmental organisations in order to conduct the procedure more efficiently, with the aim of protecting the injured parties from additional traumatisation;
- the urgent need to work on sensitisation of professionals, especially concerning highlighting the property law claim for non-material damage compensation to victims of human trafficking;
- when organising training for prosecutors, more attention should be paid to the method of collecting evidence necessary for filing a property claim in criminal proceedings;
- guardianship bodies, centres for social work, need professional training in order to take a more active role in submitting property claims on behalf of minors, victims of human trafficking;
- it is extremely important for victims to have information that, in addition to witness and victim support departments at courts and prosecutor's offices, they can receive support and help from specialised civil society organisations and non-governmental organisations such as the Centre for Women's Rights;
- due to the shortcomings of the law, it is necessary to use international standards, such as the Istanbul Convention, because they provide room for the elimination of evident inequality, the unfair position imposed on the victim within the criminal proceedings - the Istanbul Convention can be directly applied thereof;
- we all must work together to eliminate the unfairly unequal position of victims of trafficking in human beings in criminal proceedings.

With the use of all available resources, mutual cooperation and coordination between actors at all levels of government in BiH, the implementation of the aforesaid recommendations would have an impact on changes that would enable greater rights for victims and potential victims of human trafficking, prevent re-traumatisation and facilitate access to justice, including the exercise of rights to compensation in criminal proceedings.

Media conference and presentation of achievements: 30 October 2023

At the press conference, we presented the key achievements and results of the two-year work on:

- providing legal assistance and psychosocial support to victims and potential victims of human trafficking
- strengthening of institutional mechanisms and cooperation of key actors in the protection system chain
- information and public advocacy campaign, and
- for the first time, a Guide intended for professionals in the chain of protection systems for victims of trafficking in human beings is presented to the public with examples from practice in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

One of the members of the Expert Working Group took part in the media conference, who promoted the Guide for professionals in the chain of protection systems, with examples from the practice in Bosnia and Herzegovina. She informed the public about the process of its creation, pointing out key recommendations and areas of action for improving the response in the field of human trafficking.

Round table on the occasion of marking 18 October - European Day of Justice – 18 October 2023

On 18 October 2023, a round table was held on the protection of the rights of victims of trafficking in human beings in migration flows. The event was organised on the occasion of the EU Anti-trafficking Day and brought together a representative number of representatives of courts, prosecutor's offices, centres for social work, the Service for Foreigners' Affairs, SIPA, the Ministry of Security of BiH - Office of the State Coordinator, RMT members/coordinators, media from over 20 cities from all over Bosnia and Herzegovina. More precisely, the Round Table brought together 44 representatives of courts, prosecutor's offices, centres for social work, the Service for Foreigners' Affairs, SIPA, the Ministry of Security of BiH - Office of the State Coordinator, RMT members/coordinators, media from Sarajevo, Zenica, Breza, Kakanj, Gračanica, Mostar, Tuzla, Brčko, Jajce, Donji Vakuf, Travnik,

Novi Travnik, Livno, Široki Brijeg, Novo Goražde, Hadžići, Novo Sarajevo, East New Sarajevo, Ljubuški, Ilidža.

After the presentation of panellists, experts in human rights, security and crime, the participants had the opportunity to discuss, share information from the field, that is, experiences in the work of institutions from the local community they came from. All shared reviews and reflections led to a unique conclusion: *improve the prevention and suppression of trafficking in human beings in general, as well as in migration flows, giving more space and a greater role to the strengthening and proactive action of trained experts, better communication, coordination and synergy.*

The event was evaluated by the participants as highly useful, offering an overview of key information, including a very important opportunity for direct conversation, exchange and connection. The panellists at this round table were an Academic on the topic: "Safety and security aspects of trafficking in human beings in migration flows from the perspective of criminal science" and the Ombudsman for Human Rights of Bosnia and Herzegovina, on the topic: "Human rights of migrants", and the Coordinator of the Department of Free Legal Aid and Psychological Support, Centre for Women's Rights on the topic: "The role of NGOs in the prevention of combatting trafficking in human beings in migration flows".

The basic recommendations that emerged from this round table are:

- Continue and improve cross-sectoral cooperation between institutions that are part of the system of the chain of protection of the rights of victims of trafficking in human beings in migration flows
- Ensure that human rights are at the centre of efforts to solve the problem of migration in all its phases, including responses to large and mixed movements,
- Ensure that migrants have access to justice
- Protect the lives and safety of migrants and ensure that all migrants facing a risk to life or safety are rescued and offered emergency assistance
- Protect the migrants from torture and all forms of violence and exploitation, whether performed by state or private actors
- Protect the right of migrants to an adequate standard of living
- Guarantee the right of migrants to work, under fair and favourable conditions
- Protect the right of migrants to education
- Protect the right of migrants to information
- Respect and support the activities of human rights defenders who promote and protect the human rights of migrants
- Guarantee the human rights of all children in the context of migration and ensure that migrant children are treated as children first and foremost
- Protect the human rights of migrant women and girls.

Although the event brought together representatives of the professional public, for the general and also professional public we prepared a set of 5 video materials through which we wanted to bring closer the importance of action on identification and work on processing cases of human trafficking, support services, and especially the danger of the consequences of the occurrence and (non)recognition of trafficking in human beings in migration flows.

The Programme Director took part in making the video from the Round Table, while Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina - Office of the State Coordinator, and panellists took part in addressing the media and recording statements.

USAID/INSPIRE

During 2023, the Human Rights Protection and Support Programme (USAID/INSPIRE) organised two training sessions on the topic "Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings", intended for representatives of non-governmental organisations.

The first training was held in February 2023, and was attended by 25 representatives of non-governmental organisations from all over Bosnia and Herzegovina. The second training was held in December 2023, and it was attended by 13 representatives of non-governmental organisations from all over Bosnia and Herzegovina. There were no representatives of government institutions at the training sessions.

KALI SARA - ROMA INFORMATION CENTRE

Regional Workshops (Educational workshop):

27 February 2023 Vitez

9 March 2023 Zenica

18 April 2023 Brčko

ATiP focused Social Justice Training:

15-16 March 2023 Zenica

12-13 April 2023 Bihać

Workshops with representatives of local institutions:

2 October 2023 Jajce

24 October 2023 Modriča

21 November 2023 Živinice

2) Have the BiH authorities funded/implemented campaigns/activities to raise awareness of trafficking in human beings? Did they contribute in kind (in kind support) to campaigns carried out by non-governmental or governmental organisations?

The Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina traditionally marks 18 October, the EU Anti-Trafficking Day, and accordingly, in the 2023 budget, it allocated KM 10,000.00 for that purpose. As on previous occasions of marking this significant date, the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina has decided to have a comprehensive approach to highlight the problem of trafficking in human beings in our region, and all activities are carried out in cooperation with non-governmental organisations. A permanent, non-aggressive campaign, based on dosed content and precise instructions, would be the basic preamble in the process of raising awareness of the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In accordance with the special strategic goal 2 - Prevention (2.1. Conduct campaigns to raise citizens' awareness), contained in the Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2020 - 2023, adopted at the 2nd session of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina held on 23 January 2020, it is necessary to initiate effective campaigns intended for citizens in order to raise awareness of trafficking in human beings during the period of its implementation. Marking the EU Anti-Trafficking Day was organised in Bijeljina, Tuzla and Sarajevo in cooperation with non-governmental organisations that closely cooperate with the Ministry of Security on these issues, and the "Lara" Foundation from Bijeljina.

g. socio-economic initiatives aimed at fundamental and structural causes;

Bosnia and Herzegovina, acting in accordance with Article 17 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, adopted the Law on Amendments to the Law on the Ombudsman for Human Rights of Bosnia and Herzegovina Article 4a), which prescribes that Ombudsmen perform the preventive mechanism tasks to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and punishment in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The establishment and operation of a preventive mechanism in Bosnia and Herzegovina is one of the possible ways to identify victims of trafficking in human beings and protect their rights.

5. What concrete measures are being taken to reduce the vulnerability of persons with disabilities to human trafficking? Please provide information in the following areas:

- a. deinstitutionalisation, including community and family services for children and support for independent living;

By placing them in foster families, we enable the deinstitutionalisation of child victims of human trafficking. Through foster care, centres for social work provide other services in the field of social protection in order to reduce the vulnerability and trauma caused by this crime. Foster care exists as an option for potential victims of human trafficking. The guardianship authority monitors and provides services to persons with disabilities. Through this work the difficulties that these children and adults face are observed and based on that, protection is provided in the form of accommodation or through some other forms of care. The process of deinstitutionalisation is long-term and requires a larger number of specialist foster families, as well as more adequate preparations, therefore it is going very slowly now, but most importantly, the process is ongoing and slowly developing. Small family homes ensure a semi-individual life and provide a sense of family and belonging to the community.

Based on their powers prescribed by the Law on the Ombudsman for Human Rights of Bosnia and Herzegovina, applicable legal regulations and obligations of Bosnia and Herzegovina assumed by signing international documents for the protection of human rights, primarily the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Ombudsmen of Bosnia and Herzegovina made during 2018 a Special report on the state of the rights of persons with intellectual and mental disabilities, in the framework of which a visit was made to all social protection institutions and health care institutions where persons with intellectual and mental disabilities are placed, and conclusions were drawn based on the collected data, based on which recommendations were issued to the competent authorities. In 2023, the ombudsmen of BiH continued to monitor the situation in this area through the complaints received, but activities were also initiated to create a follow-up report on the situation in institutions where persons with intellectual and mental disabilities are placed in BiH. The aim of this Report is to look at the current situation in the context of the implementation of previously issued recommendations, but also to identify areas in which progress has taken place, that is, in which the situation has remained unchanged. This is of extreme importance, considering the fact that five years have passed since the preparation of the previous Report. *The special report on the state of rights of persons with intellectual and mental disabilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina* was finalised this year, 2024, and recommendations were sent to the competent authorities.⁶

With the aim of recognising the equal right of children and all persons with disabilities to live in the family and community, HNC continuously undertakes effective and appropriate measures that facilitate full inclusion and participation in the community for children and persons with disabilities. For this purpose, it continues with the process of deinstitutionalisation of users, prevention of their institutionalization and transformation of service providers. The process of deinstitutionalization is primarily focused on groups of users traditionally placed in homes, children and people with disabilities, while for other groups of users the priority is the development of support services in the community with the aim of better integrating users into community life and staying in their own household as long as possible.

All campaigns implemented by MFS-EMMAUS are carefully designed to be inclusive for people with disabilities. All materials used in the campaigns were created using sign language, ensuring that they are accessible and understandable to people with special needs. An example of this is the video material covering six different forms of violence - child neglect, physical violence, emotional, sexual, peer and

digital violence - which is fully adapted to people with disabilities using sign language. This approach ensures that campaigns are accessible to all target groups, including those with disabilities.

b. monitoring institutions and foster families where people with disabilities are placed;

The aforementioned is defined by the laws on foster care of Entities and the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Rulebook on Foster Care of Republika Srpska. These laws regulate: the principles of foster care, the concept and types of foster care, conditions for providing foster care, types and number of foster children, eligibility for foster care, foster care contract, foster care allowance and allowance for supporting the foster child, obligations, responsibilities and rights of the foster carer and the centre for social work (hereinafter: Centre), rights and obligations of foster parents, training and education, data register and record, administrative supervision, and other issues in the field of foster care. The Rulebook on Foster Care of Republika Srpska prescribes the conditions and procedure for obtaining the status of a foster family, types and forms of care in a foster family, calculation of compensation for the work of a foster carer, termination of foster care and the method of supervision over the work of a foster carer. Supervision of the work of foster parents is a set of continuous activities aimed at providing professional support to foster parents, assessing the achievement of the purpose of foster care, assessing current needs and changes in the foster family with the aim of implementing a service plan and protection measures. The supervision of the foster carer's work is carried out by the expert team of the centre for social work, which placed the child in foster care. The Family Law of Republika Srpska, the Rulebook on Foster Care, as well as the Programme for Preparation for Foster Care regulate the issues of guardianship and foster care.

In the past period, trainings and educations were organised for social protection professionals in the field of foster care for children.

Action plan of the Government of Republika Srpska for combating trafficking in human beings 2024-2027 foresees activities for the implementation of training and education of child care experts, legal guardians and education professionals.

Some of the mentioned activities are also foreseen in other action plans of the Government of Republika Srpska: Action Plan for Combating Cybercrime 2023-2024, Action Plan for Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children 2023-2024, Action Plan for Prevention of Domestic and Community Violence.

c. the procedure for selecting and appointing legal guardians and monitoring their work;

In accordance with the Family Laws of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a person who has the personal qualities and ability to perform the duties of a guardian, and who previously consented to being a guardian, shall be appointed as a guardian. The guardianship authority is obliged to inform the guardian about the importance of guardianship, his/her rights and obligations and other important information necessary for the performance of the guardian's duties, before making a decision appointing a guardian. The same Law stipulates the guardian's duty to submit a report on his/her work to the guardianship authority every year, as well as when requested by the guardianship authority - centres for social work. Centres for social work carry out complete processing and insight into the family circumstances of persons who are appointed as legal guardians, and regularly request reports on the guardian's work, as well as insight into the circumstances in which the person under guardianship lives. If the person does not meet the criteria for performing the role of a guardian, he/she will not and cannot be appointed as the guardian of a person in need. Through written correspondence, field work, inspection of documentation, the guardian's work shall be regularly monitored, as well as the relationship with the person under guardianship and the conditions in which the person lives.

d. access to adequate accommodation, education and work;

It is regulated by the Rulebook on the Protection of Foreign Nationals - Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings and the Rulebook on the Protection of Witnesses of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings – BiH Citizens. It is also regulated by the laws of the Entities and the Brčko District of BiH

The Law on Social Protection of Republika Srpska stipulates that the following persons have the right to accommodation, education and work: children without parental care, children with developmental difficulties, children whose development is hindered by family circumstances, children with socially unacceptable behaviour, children victims of violence, children victims of human trafficking, and adults with disabilities and serious chronic diseases.

The Centre, in cooperation with the apartments where children and adults are placed, continuously works on their inclusion in the process of regular education, education under special conditions and capacity building, and their retraining.

e. access to information and reporting/complaint mechanisms available to persons with disabilities.

In the procedures it runs and in its daily work, the Centre as a guardianship body directs, supports and helps vulnerable categories to express dissatisfaction, appeals, objections and other means to the decisions of bodies with which they are not satisfied. They are regularly and continuously referred to the institutions of free legal aid or to Vaša prava BiH, so that through these organisations/associations they can file regular and extraordinary legal remedies against the decisions of authorities that were made in the procedures for exercising rights or services.

In accordance with the Law on Social Protection of Republika Srpska, the competent Centre for Social Work in whose territory the applicant has a residence, i.e. a foreigner's residence permit, decides on the request for the exercise of rights in the first instance, and in the second instance, the responsible minister decides on the appeal.

Access to information on the conditions and accommodation procedure, the form, and contact information are available online, at the reception offices and through the association of persons with disabilities. Posters about potential beneficiaries and rights in the field of social protection, as well as a Guide for exercising rights in the field of social protection, have been distributed to all social protection institutions.

The mechanism for reporting appeals/complaints to the party about the procedures and acts of official persons is provided through the instructions on the acts, and they can be submitted through the website or the reception office, and through special boxes for anonymous reports and complaints about corrupt practices.

6. In practice, how do you ensure that the vulnerability and special needs assessment of asylum seekers is carried out at an early stage? What procedures are followed when a vulnerability to trafficking in human beings is discovered? Please provide information on policies and measures in the following areas:

- a. providing comprehensive and accessible information, in a number of relevant languages, on the rights of asylum seekers, indicators of human trafficking, rights of victims of trafficking in human beings and contacts of relevant organisations;
- b. access to legal aid and representation;
- c. access to decent housing, health care (including psychological care), work and education.

- a.) IOM provides information through its focus on sustainable solutions; among other things, through info legal sessions and daily field work, basic information about asylum is provided and regular referrals are made to Vaša prava for initiating proceedings and representation through free legal aid. BHWI provides psychosocial help and support.

Provision of comprehensive and accessible information, in a number of relevant languages, on the rights of asylum seekers, indicators of human trafficking, rights of victims of trafficking in human beings and contacts of relevant organisations;

Foreign nationals who are potential victims of trafficking in human beings exercise their rights in accordance with the Law on Foreigners and the Rulebook on the Protection of Foreign Victims of Human Trafficking. The rights of foreign nationals who are potential victims of trafficking in human beings are: adequate and safe accommodation, access to emergency medical care, psychological assistance, information about legal status, legal assistance in the process of realising status issues, access to the labour market under conditions that apply to foreign nationals, access to professional training and education, information on the possibilities and procedure of repatriation and return and information on the method of access to the diplomatic and consular offices of the country of origin or the country of habitual residence. The referenced documents are available on the official website of the Ministry of Security of BiH in the languages used in BiH and in English. Also, the Rulebook on the Protection of Foreign Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings prescribes the basic indicators for identifying foreign potential victims of human trafficking, namely: self-identification, place and conditions where the foreign national was found as a potential victim of trafficking, restriction of personal freedom, psycho-physical condition of the person, age of the person, especially if they are persons under the age of 18, the manner and purpose of entering Bosnia and Herzegovina, the status, movement and stay of the person in Bosnia and Herzegovina, possession of a travel document, possession of financial resources and other circumstances relevant for proper identification.

In previous years, the IOM has created welcome leaflets (short manuals) that contain basic information about the centre itself, including information on how to find out more about asylum. Handbooks are available in all relevant languages and are regularly distributed in temporary reception centres. Info legal sessions held by the IOM in cooperation with Vaša prava and the AVRR (Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration) team discuss the status regularisation, asylum in BiH, the voluntary return home programme, and the risks that users may encounter on the way, and how to recognise danger and seek help. In addition, IOM continuously provides training for employees in temporary reception centres on the subject of referral, identification and assistance to victims of human trafficking, with a special focus on cultural mediation, which is essential for providing comprehensive assistance and support to vulnerable groups of migrants and asylum seekers.

In the period 2020-2024, MFS-EMMAUS developed two informative, educational and multilingual posters, each of which contained information on important contacts for informing and reporting any suspicion of human trafficking. The posters were developed in 6 languages (BHS, English, Urdu, Pashto, Farsi and Arabic), and distributed throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, to law enforcement agencies, border crossings, centres for social work, non-governmental organisations, and the rest of the population, both printed and electronic versions.

- b.) access to legal aid and representation;

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, laws on free legal aid regulate the provision of legal aid to victims of trafficking in human beings. Foreign nationals who are potential victims of trafficking in human beings exercise their rights in accordance with the Law on Foreigners and the Rulebook on the Protection of Foreign Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings. One of the prescribed rights of foreign nationals who are potential and actual victims of trafficking in human beings is the right to information about their legal status and legal assistance in the process of pursuing status issues. In accordance with the rules on the protection of victims of trafficking in human beings - citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, this issue is also regulated in a way that all victims have access to legal aid and representation.

The need to improve the system of free legal aid was highlighted in the last report of the European Commission from 2023, which recommends that "the legal framework should be completed by the adoption of laws in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Central Bosnia Canton, as well as by the operationalisation of the Office for Legal Aid in Herzegovina- Neretva Canton. Conducting a needs assessment would help to identify the main gaps and ensure efficient and equal access to justice for everyone regardless of their place of residence."

On the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Laws on the Provision of Free Legal Aid were adopted at the level of Bosnia and Herzegovina, cantons (except Central Bosnia Canton), Republika Srpska and the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Institution of Ombudsman received complaints from the association "Vaša prava Bosne i Hercegovine" regarding the violation of Article 6 of the European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, in relation to the right to free legal aid on the territory of Central Bosnia and Herzegovina-Neretva Cantons. In the Central Bosnia and Herzegovina-Neretva Cantons, no system of access to free legal aid has been established for the most vulnerable categories of the population. In order to overcome the above-mentioned situation and establish an appropriate free legal aid system, acting in appeal cases, the Ombudsmen of Bosnia and Herzegovina issued recommendations to the Government of the Central Bosnia Canton to adopt the Law on Free Legal Aid for the Central Bosnia Canton and to the Government of the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton to complete the process of appointing directors and hire staff at the Institute for the provision of free legal aid. The recommendations of the Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina have not been followed.

From the association "Vaša prava Bosne i Hercegovine" the Ombudsmen of Bosnia and Herzegovina received the "Initiative for Amendments to the Law on Free Legal Aid Applied in Bosnia and Herzegovina". The case has been registered with the Ombudsman Institution under the number: Ž-SA-08-159/24, which will be dealt with further.

The Law on Free Legal Aid of Republika Srpska stipulates that the right to free legal aid is also available to natural persons who are on the territory of Republika Srpska, under international protection in accordance with international standards, and in particular refugees, persons under temporary admission, victims of trafficking in human beings, and those who are unable to pay the costs of legal aid.

In 2019, the UN Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women welcomed the adoption of the Law on Aliens in BiH, which provides for support for victims of trafficking in human beings who have been granted temporary residence, and the Law on Asylum in BiH, which prohibits discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and sexual characteristics, as well as amendments to the Criminal Code, which ensure stricter penalties for perpetrators of trafficking in human beings.

The Law on Asylum does not clearly prescribe measures that guarantee that applicants for asylum will not be subjected to psychological tests to determine their sexual orientation or gender identity. However, from the conception of the entire law, there are guarantees that the asylum seeker will not be conditioned for the purpose of establishing the relevant facts for making a decision based on the asylum application, to undergo any type of testing without personal consent.

BiH still needs to implement the recommendation of the European Commission that it is necessary to improve the implementation of the legislation on asylum, especially to ensure systematic respect for procedural guarantees for asylum seekers, as well as that it is necessary to strengthen access to procedures and mechanisms for asylum in order to ensure faster processing of applications and to provide international protection to people who need it. In addition, same-sex unions are still not recognised as a basis for obtaining temporary residence in BiH, nor are they recognised by law in the provisions related to family reunification.

In order to address the problems of LGBTI persons, including asylum seekers, the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted in July 2022 the first Action Plan for the advancement of human

rights and fundamental freedoms of LGBTI persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which, among other things, foresees the implementation of the measure: "Adopting guidelines for dealing with cases of LGBTI persons as asylum seekers and training of official persons".

c. access to decent housing, health care (including psychological care), work and education.

Potential victims of trafficking in human beings (foreign and domestic) exercise their rights in accordance with the Law on Foreigners and the Rulebook on the Protection of Foreign Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, as well as the rules on the protection of victims and witnesses of trafficking in human beings of BiH citizens. One of the rights of potential victims of trafficking in human beings is the right to adequate and safe accommodation, access to emergency medical care, psychological assistance, access to the labour market under conditions that apply to foreign nationals, access to professional training and education.

When submitting an application for asylum/registration, a short statement on the reasons for seeking asylum (persecution) is taken from the asylum seeker. Theoretically and practically, it is possible that a short conversation does not reveal vulnerability to trafficking in human beings, and especially at this stage, the validity of such a request cannot be determined. Therefore, the classification of applications on this basis in the initial phase of the asylum application process would be quite difficult and could also provide unreliable data.

Furthermore, Article 2, item ii) of the Law on Asylum ("Official Gazette of BiH", No. 11/16 and 16/16), provides a definition of a vulnerable group, which includes persons deprived of legal capacity, children, unaccompanied children, elderly and frail persons, seriously ill persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, single parents with minor children, persons with mental disorders and **victims of trafficking in human beings**, victims of torture, rape or other psychological, physical and sexual violence, such as victims of female genital mutilation, and requests for asylum of this vulnerable group shall be decided on as priority, as defined in Article 29 of the Law on Asylum. Article 15 of the aforementioned Law stipulates that foreign nationals who express their intention to apply for asylum, asylum seekers, refugees, foreign nationals under subsidiary and temporary protection shall have the right to be informed in a language they understand or can reasonably be assumed to understand, about the procedures, rights and obligations that, in accordance with this law, derive from their status. The information can be presented in writing, in the form of a leaflet, in a language that the foreign national understands or can reasonably be assumed to understand. The rights of asylum seekers, which also include vulnerable groups, are defined in Article 75 of the Law on Asylum and refer to accommodation in a centre for asylum seekers, primary health care, access to primary and secondary education, access to the labour market, access to free legal aid, following the course of the procedure in the language s/he understands or can reasonably be assumed to understand, as well as psychosocial assistance.

The need to improve the system of free legal aid was highlighted in the last report of the European Commission from 2023, which recommends that: *"The legal framework should be completed by the adoption of laws in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Central Bosnia Canton, as well as by the operationalisation of the Office for Legal Aid in the Herzegovina- Neretva Canton. Conducting a needs assessment would help to identify the main gaps and ensure efficient and equal access to justice for everyone regardless of their place of residence"*.

On the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Laws on the provision of free legal aid have been adopted at the level of Bosnia and Herzegovina, cantons (except Central Bosnia Canton), Republika Srpska and the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The institution of the ombudsman received complaints from the Association "Vaša prava BiH" regarding the violation of Article 6 of the European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, in relation to the right to

free legal aid for the respective territories of Central Bosnia⁷ and Herzegovina-Neretva Canton⁸. In the Central Bosnia and Herzegovina-Neretva Cantons, no system of access to free legal aid has been established for the most vulnerable categories of the population. In order to overcome the above-mentioned situation and establish an appropriate free legal aid system, acting in appeal cases, the Ombudsmen of Bosnia and Herzegovina issued recommendations to the Government of the Central Bosnia Canton to adopt the Law on Free Legal Aid for the area of the Central Bosnia Canton⁹ and to the Government of the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton¹⁰ to complete the process of appointing directors and hire staff at the Institute for free legal aid. The recommendations of the Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina have not been followed.

Ombudsmen of Bosnia and Herzegovina received from the association "Vaša prava BiH" the *"Initiative for Amendments to the Law on Free Legal Aid Applied in Bosnia and Herzegovina"*. The case is registered with the Ombudsman Institution under the reference number: Ž-SA-08-159/24, under which it will be further processed.

IOM, in the field, in the centres and through coordination of agencies that work with asylum seekers provides accommodation in temporary reception centres according to their assessment and requests, BHWI provides psychological care, while in camps with the support of UNICEF children are included in the education system with local children.

During the month of February 2024, a Web application was launched to help victims of trafficking in human beings, which provides a key platform for anonymous reporting and access to legal aid. Focused on the security and protection of the user's identity, this application enables victims and witnesses to report cases of trafficking in human beings without fear of reprisal or identity compromise. Through an intuitive interface, users can submit a report anonymously, describing their situation in detail without the need to disclose personal information. This option ensures that the first step can be taken without fear of identification by human traffickers or other dangerous actors. Furthermore, the application provides the option of a direct, secure conversation with a lawyer, allowing users to receive specialised legal advice tailored to their needs. This conversation takes place through an encrypted channel, guaranteeing the confidentiality and protection of all exchanged information. A unique feature of the application is the ability to securely deliver documents and other relevant information needed to provide legal assistance. Whether it is photos, videos, or official documents, users can transfer these materials directly through the application, knowing that the data will be protected with the highest security standards. All the functionalities of the application are designed with an emphasis on user anonymity and security. Advanced data encryption and anonymization techniques have been implemented to ensure that users can securely communicate and share information without the risk of compromising their privacy or security. Currently, the web application to help victims of trafficking in human beings is in a testing phase, which is crucial for identifying and improving functionality, security and user experience. After this phase, a full promotion of the application is planned with the aim of spreading awareness and familiarising all vulnerable categories with the available resources and support that the application provides. Special attention is paid to the inclusivity and accessibility of the application to potential victims of trafficking in human beings who are not from the local area and may be foreign nationals. For this very reason, the application is also available in English. After the end of the test phase and the implementation of all necessary improvements, the planned promotion activities will include campaigns on social media, cooperation with relevant organisations and institutions, and the use of different media to ensure that information about the application reaches all

vulnerable categories. The goal is to create a strong, safe and accessible platform that provides the necessary help and support to victims of trafficking in human beings, wherever they are.

The process of creating audio-visual materials for the needs of the projects has been started, two promotional videos will be created, each with a maximum duration of up to 2 minutes. Through a series of short videos, which are informative and emotionally impactful, the campaign aims to educate the public on recognising the signs of trafficking in human beings in common situations, and provide concrete information on how citizens can provide help and support to victims and how to contact the competent institutions. Running a "Recognise and Respond" campaign on social networks such as TikTok, Facebook Reels, and Instagram Shorts requires creating short, informative videos tailored to the specifics of each platform, targeting specific audiences, using relevant hashtags, interactivity with calls to action, and continuous monitoring and analysis. content performance and campaign effects. The campaign will consist of 6 original videos that will inform the public about the signs of trafficking in human beings and ways to help victims, and will be implemented until October 2024.

7. What concrete measures are being taken to reduce the vulnerability of migrant workers to trafficking (including seasonal workers, referred workers, domestic workers, diplomatic household workers)? Please provide information on policies and measures in the following areas:

- a. provision of comprehensive and accessible information, in a number of relevant languages, on migration and labour laws, worker protection and contacts of relevant organisations;

The Law on Foreigners prescribes the conditions and procedure for the entry of foreign nationals into Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the visa and visa-free regime, travel documents for foreign nationals, the stay of foreign nationals in BiH, the removal of foreign nationals from BiH, the reception of foreign nationals and the placing of foreign nationals under supervision, as well as the competences of authorities in application of this Law, and other issues related to the stay of foreign nationals in BiH. The above document is available on the official website of the Ministry of Security of BiH in the languages used in BiH and in English.

MFS-EMMAUS developed a series of informative and educational, multilingual materials, each of which contained information on important contacts for informing and reporting any suspicion of trafficking in human beings. They were distributed throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, to law enforcement agencies, centres for social work, non-governmental organisations, but also to the rest of the population, both in printed and electronic versions.

- b. provision of clear employment contracts;

The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopts an annual plan on work permit quotas for foreign workers, based on the needs of the labour market. Before deciding on quotas, an analysis of labour market needs shall be made, identifying sectors and occupations with increased demand for workers. This analysis includes consultations with employers, trade unions and relevant institutions. The Council of Ministers consults with entity governments and relevant institutions in order to harmonise quotas with local labour needs. Adoption of quotas is consistent with the Law on Foreigners and other relevant laws that regulate the employment of foreign workers in BiH, defining the conditions under which foreign nationals can work in the country. After collecting information and consultations, the Council of Ministers makes a decision on determining quotas, which is published in official gazettes and becomes available to the public. After the implementation of quotas, the Council of Ministers monitors the situation on the labour market and can revise quotas according to needs and changes in demand for workers.

In accordance with the Labour Laws and other relevant regulations, employment contracts are concluded with foreign workers on the same legal basis and principles as with workers who are citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Labour inspectors, in accordance with their legal powers, carry out inspection controls, supervision over the application of the provisions of the Law on the Employment of Foreign nationals and Stateless Persons, and control whether foreign nationals have a work permit issued by the Employment Offices, ensure compliance with all labour standards, labour relations and occupational safety. They monitor compliance with regulations on employment, work, safety and health at work. A work permit is issued for a specific person, for a specific job, for a specific employer and for a specific period of time. The work permit ceases to be valid when employment ends. The work permit is valid for one year and can be extended.

c. access to decent work and housing, health care, social services and education;

Laws on Labour in Bosnia and Herzegovina clearly define the procedures for hiring and concluding contracts with foreign workers, ensuring the rights and obligations of all parties. Employers must follow legal procedures to ensure the legal employment of foreign workers.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Law on Foreigners, foreigners may be granted temporary residence on the basis of work with a work permit and work without a work permit, subject to the fulfilment of the conditions prescribed by this Law.

Applicable legal regulations that regulate the areas of work, employment, temporary and permanent residence, health and social protection, education provide that foreign nationals exercise the same rights, obligations and responsibilities as the citizens do, unless international agreements stipulate otherwise.

When a potential victim of trafficking in human beings is identified, after being referred to the police or prosecutor's office, the victim is provided with emergency protection measures, namely health care, psychological support, social protection, and the victim is also referred to a non-governmental organisation that runs a shelter and/or provides assistance and protection to victims. The victim also has the right to an interpreter, the right to a safe return, the right to a period of reflection, the right to impunity.

d. the possibility of changing the employer;

Pursuant to the provisions of the Law on Foreigners, a foreign national who has been granted a temporary stay based on a work permit will not end his/her temporary stay if, during the validity of the temporary residence permit, s/he changes her/his employer or changes her/his workplace, subject to the fulfilment of the conditions prescribed by this Law.

e. access to confidential complaints mechanisms;

In accordance with all the rights guaranteed by the Constitution and specific laws, foreign workers have the same rights as citizens of BiH without exception, therefore the right to legal remedies, that is, to review decisions by filing appeals or extraordinary legal remedies for decisions with which they are dissatisfied and which they consider to be illegal and that should be corrected.

f. the right to join unions and engage in collective bargaining;

In accordance with the relevant laws, migrant workers, when they receive a residence permit based on a work permit or in accordance with a residence permit as refugees or displaced persons who are employed in companies on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, have the same rights as workers who are citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, therefore they have the right to join trade unions, as well as all other related rights, and they must not be discriminated on any basis. Unions are enabled to provide assistance to workers in the informal sector or workers without documents.

g. legal ways to regulate their stay in the country;

The right to stay in Bosnia and Herzegovina is regulated by different laws, depending on the status of the person who wants to stay in the country. These are: Law on Foreigners, Law on Asylum, Law on Labour, Law on Employment of Foreigners in FBiH, Republika Srpska and the Brčko District of BiH.

The Law on Foreigners prescribes the conditions and procedure for the entry of foreign nationals into Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the visa and visa-free regime, travel documents for foreign nationals, the stay of foreign nationals in BiH, the removal of foreign nationals from BiH, the reception of foreign nationals and the placing of foreign nationals under supervision, as well as the competences of authorities in application of this Law, and other issues related to the stay of foreign nationals in BiH. The above document is available on the official website of the Ministry of Security of BiH in the languages used in BiH and in English.

From September 2023 to August 2024, the IOM organised a series of meetings, consultations and capacity building training for key actors in the management of labour migration in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The trainings included representatives of governmental and non-governmental institutions, academies and the private sector and focused on the identification of crisis points in the preparation of foreign workers, employers and institutions. As a result, the key steps for better information about the rights and obligations of workers were mapped. IOM will continue to work on the standardisation of available information to facilitate the integration of workers. Also, IOM offers cultural and linguistic mediation training for foreign workers in languages they understand. In cooperation with experts, IOM prepared an analysis of labour migration in BiH, which provides recommendations for legislative changes and more efficient labour rights, and will be available to relevant actors.

As part of promotional activities and raising awareness of vulnerable categories, information leaflets of our project were made, which are now available in English, Arabic, Farsi and Russian, in addition to the original version in our language. These versions have undergone minimal changes compared to the approved version in our language, and these changes refer mainly to language specificities in the content and specificities of the letter. This initiative to provide versions of information leaflets in multiple languages was proposed during the budget revision, and directly corresponds to the needs identified on the ground during our communication with potential victims of trafficking in human beings. We believe that making this information available in multiple languages will significantly improve our communication efforts and contribute to making the project's goals understandable to a wider number of people. This approach fits in with our commitment to providing support and information to potential victims in the language they best understand, thus increasing the effectiveness of our communication.

In the past month, the "Scan for Justice" initiative was launched, aimed at combatting trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This campaign uses QR codes to disseminate vital information, overcoming language and cultural barriers. Leaflets are available in English, Arabic, Farsi, and Russian, ensuring access to information for everyone. By sharing QR codes and flyers, we help protect jeopardised and vulnerable categories by providing key information that saves lives.

8. Do labour inspectorates and other bodies that check workplace conditions have a comprehensive mandate and adequate human, financial and technical resources to conduct regular, proactive inspections of workplaces in all economic sectors, with special emphasis on high-risk sectors that are prone to exploitation? How do labour inspectors cooperate with other authorities and trade unions? Is there a separation between the functions of labour inspection and immigration control?

In November 2020, the Ombudsmen of Bosnia and Herzegovina prepared a *Special Report on the role of inspection bodies in the protection of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina*¹¹. In Bosnia and

Herzegovina, inspection supervision has been established at all levels of government. In this regard, inspection supervision is required to be based on the following values: transparency, professionalism, responsibility, but also coherence, proportionality, openness, participatory approach and efficiency. All inspection activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina are undertaken by the public administration or are under its jurisdiction, which means that they are subject to the principles of good governance.

During the preparation of the Special Report, the inspection bodies in their statements pointed out a number of shortcomings related to the legislation. Analysing the legislative framework at all levels of government, as well as the current situation (data obtained from inspection bodies at all levels during the preparation of reports), it is difficult to speak of a fully established and harmonious inspection system. Procedural failures in the implementation of inspection supervision are often the basis for annulment of decisions and other measures adopted by inspection bodies in judicial systems, which seriously undermines the rule of law. Promotion as an activity of inspection bodies is not represented to the extent it should be. In the Special Report, the Ombudsmen pointed out the problem of coordination, especially between different levels of inspection supervision, which in some cases is also maintained through the structure of inspectors in local communities. The inspection bodies pointed to the problem of human resources, from the aspect of vacant positions, but also the lack of a systematic approach to the continuous training of inspectors, which should include the organisation of specialised educations by area with special reference to the adopted standards and legislation of the European Union.

The behaviour of inspection bodies in relation to applicants is very significant. In the institution of the Ombudsmen, a significant number of cases refer to this issue, where citizens state that they were not informed about the results of the inspection after the submitted report, they were not allowed to receive the Record, to use a legal remedy, which is not in accordance with international standards and the principle of the rule of law.

Labour inspection through regular and extraordinary controls at employers, in addition to checking registrations and contracts of found workers, also controls the conditions of the working environment, means and equipment for work, the fulfilment of requirements regarding worker training in the field of occupational safety, and whether workers have previously passed preventive or periodic medical examinations. The greatest emphasis is on controls in the field of construction because this is a sector in which unskilled physical labour is mainly hired. Also, during inspections of employers hired in construction, groups of workers are often encountered, to whom the employer, with prior agreement, provides accommodation and food, so that in this case, the labour inspection can have an insight.

Labour inspectorates closely cooperate with employment offices/services and with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs when controlling the work of foreign nationals on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

With the support of the Council of Europe, the signing of the Protocol on cooperation between police agencies and labour inspectorates was initiated in order to intensify the identification of victims and the investigation of cases of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation. The protocol, developed with the support of the Council of Europe project "Strengthening action against trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina", provides a framework for cooperation and aims to encourage the practice of joint field inspections by labour inspectors and law enforcement officers in order to effectively monitor compliance with the Law on Labour.

The protocol has already been signed by the Ministry of the Interior and the Directorate for Inspection Affairs of Canton 10 (Livno) and the Ministry of the Interior and the Labour Inspection of the West Herzegovina Canton. Brčko District and 5 cantons: Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, Zenica-Doboj Canton, Tuzla Canton, Bosnia-Podrinje Canton and Una-Sana Canton have confirmed their intention to sign the Protocol in 2024. The provisions of the Protocol will be included in the operational documents for combatting trafficking in human beings in Republika Srpska.

9. How are employment agencies regulated and supervised? Are all stages of the recruitment process, including advertising, selection, transport and recruitment, subject to regulation? Are employment benefits and related costs prohibited from being borne by workers or job seekers??

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the competence to issue work permits lies with the Employment Service, which issues work permits for foreign nationals and which are the basis for issuing residence permits. The Services are established by various levels of government in the country, depending on the entities, and they are supervised by responsible ministries and administrative inspections. Pursuant to the Law on Employment Mediation and Social Security of Unemployed Persons, there is a possibility of establishing private Agencies for mediation in employment, which operate within the framework of economic companies, and whose work is approved in the Federation by the Federation Ministry of Labour and Social Policy upon fulfilment of certain conditions. In principle, according to this Law, the abovementioned agencies are intended to operate on the national territory and should not act outside their competences, that is, for several years, specific issues based on these arguments have required amendments to the Law on Employment Mediation and Social Security of Unemployed Persons and the Law on Employment of Foreign Nationals. Amendments to the aforementioned laws in the Federation are ongoing, but they should provide answers and regulate all the aforementioned issues and reduce to the maximum the danger in the abuse of the rights of foreign nationals that are evident in the field.

The work of employment agencies in Republika Srpska is also regulated by the Rulebook on conditions that must be met by legal and natural persons involved in employment mediation.

The Rulebook stipulates that the activities of natural and legal persons related to advertising the offer and demand of vacancies and workers through written and electronic media or the Internet are also considered employment mediation.

10. How do you prevent and sanction abuses of legal structures such as self-employment, subcontracting and transfer of workers, which can be used to commit trafficking in human beings? Labour inspections, misdemeanour punishment, revocation of residence permits.

If it is determined that there is an irregularity in the employment contract, that the workers were promised that they would be registered, that they would have excellent conditions, etc., and during the control it is determined that the workers are without concluded contracts, that they have not been registered, in this regard, misdemeanour warrant and decisions shall be immediately issued, demanding that employment contracts are signed and the workers registered to mandatory types of insurance as soon as possible i.e., in the case of foreign workers, that work permits shall be obtained for them, then contracts and registration.

The Labour Inspectorate carries out regular inspections in all economic areas, and during its inspections, if it finds irregularities in the work of the subject of supervision, it adopts administrative measures to eliminate irregularities in accordance with the Labour Laws in BiH, and issues misdemeanour warrants, i.e. submits a request for the initiation of misdemeanour proceedings in accordance with the Labour Laws of BiH and the Laws on Misdemeanours.

11. How does your country's migration legislation and policy strive to prevent trafficking in human beings by enabling legal migration and legal employment opportunities with decent working conditions?

The Law on Foreigners in BiH prescribes the conditions and procedure for the entry of foreign nationals into Bosnia and Herzegovina (hereinafter: BiH), including the visa and visa-free regime, travel documents for foreign nationals, the stay of foreign nationals in BiH, the removal of foreign nationals from BiH, the reception of foreign nationals and the placement of foreign nationals under supervision, as well as the competence of authorities in the application of this Law, and other issues related to the stay of foreign nationals in BiH.

According to the foregoing Law, residence is defined as visa, visa-free, temporary and permanent residence.

The Labour and Employment Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina has established a mechanism for informing workers about legal and safe labour migration. The mechanism consists of several parts. The first and basic part, intended for all migrant workers, is the website of the Labour and Employment Agency of BiH, where there is detailed information on how to go abroad to work. Since 2018, BiH has been a member of the Danube Compass Initiative through the BiH Labour and Employment Agency, and the website contains special data related to labour migration for the eight member states of the Danube region to which our citizens migrate the most.

The second part of the mechanism refers to mediation in employment through interstate agreements and contracts on employment mediation. All the necessary information about the methods of going to work in countries with which BiH has concluded agreements and contracts on mediation can be found on the website, and 100% of all workers who are involved in mediation receive all the necessary information about going abroad to work, and about the ways of possible protection of their rights, in a manner that they are personally informed about these matters when they come to the premises of the Labour and Employment Agency of BiH.

The Labour and Employment Agency, through regular media releases, always informs the public about ways to safely go to work abroad, and regularly warns about problems with migrant workers in certain countries based on information provided by competent institutions. In all existing interstate agreements on the employment of workers from Bosnia and Herzegovina abroad (agreements with Serbia, Slovenia and Qatar), as well as the agreement on the mediation related to persons with completed secondary medical school in FR Germany, there is a provision for monitoring the agreement. In particular, the agreement with Slovenia and the agreement with Germany are currently being implemented. In the agreement with Slovenia, there is a mechanism of an interstate commission for monitoring the Agreement. In 2022, the Commission met once, and at the Commission meeting they discussed the improvement of the existing employment agreement in the form of providing greater rights and benefits for workers.

Action Plan of the Government of Republika Srpska for combating trafficking in human beings 2024-2027 foresees the following activities:

- Strengthen the capacities of competent institutions for managing labour migration by providing information on safe and legal opportunities for work, training and education, both for foreign nationals in Republika Srpska and for citizens of Republika Srpska who go abroad.
- Promote clear criteria for the official registration and licencing of recruitment agencies and supervise the activities of these agencies in an effort to prevent all forms of trafficking in human beings.

Applicable legal regulations governing the areas of work and employment stipulate that foreign nationals exercise the same rights, obligations and responsibilities as citizens do, unless otherwise stipulated by international agreements.

The Employment Agency of Republika Srpska is an organisation on the labour market that develops employment programmes, provides information, mediates between employers and unemployed persons.

Service for Foreigners' Affairs - to deliver

12. How does your country's law and policy ensure that demand that leads to trafficking is discouraged, and address specific vulnerabilities and groups at risk of trafficking?

Through the provisions of the criminal laws in Bosnia and Herzegovina, prosecution of perpetrators of trafficking in human beings and severe criminal sanctions provide general prevention, but at the same time, the law enables the prosecution of users of the services of victims of trafficking in human beings, which has effects on demand reduction. According to the adopted guidelines for the protection of victims of trafficking in human beings, the guidelines on the punishment of service users contributed to the adoption of the Instructions of the Chief Prosecutors, which mandate that evidence against service users be collected and they to be processed.

Action Plan of the Government of Republika Srpska for combating trafficking in human beings 2024-2027 foresee the following activities:

- Strengthen the capacities of competent institutions for managing labour migration by providing information on safe and legal opportunities for work, training and education, both for foreign nationals in Republika Srpska and for citizens of Republika Srpska who go abroad.
- Promote clear criteria for the official registration and licensing of recruitment agencies and supervise the activities of these agencies in an effort to prevent all forms of human trafficking.

13. How does your country's legislation and practice ensure that there is an individual assessment of protection needs at the borders before any refusal of entry or expulsion?

Reasons for refusal of entry

A foreign national shall be refused entry to BiH if s/he does not meet the conditions for entry referred to in Article 19 (General conditions for entry) nor is s/he subject to an international agreement to which BiH is a contracting party or a decision from Article 20 (Entry under special conditions) of this law. (2) A foreign national may be refused entry to BiH despite the reasons referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article if: a) when attempting to enter BiH, s/he presents a forged travel document; b) presents a forged visa or residence permit when attempting to enter BiH; c) has already spent 90 days on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina in any 180-day period, which includes taking into account the 180-day period preceding each day of stay, and s/he is a citizen of a country with a visa-free regime, unless the provisions of Article 20 (Entry under special conditions) of this law applies to her/him; d) has already spent on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina the period of permitted stay prescribed by the international agreement to which Bosnia and Herzegovina is a contracting party, unless s/he has fulfilled the conditions for entry on another basis; e) there are grounds for suspicion that s/he will perform tasks for which a work permit is required, and the provisions of Article 77 (Stay for the purpose of work without a work permit and certificate of work registration) of this law do not apply to her/him; 16 f) his visa to Bosnia and Herzegovina was cancelled or revoked upon entry.

The Border Police decides on the refusal of entry at the border. (2) A foreign national who is refused entry to BiH because s/he does not meet the conditions for entry prescribed by this law shall be issued a decision on refusal of entry. (3) The decision on refusal of entry contains the reason for the refusal of entry, it is made according to summary procedure, unless it is an unaccompanied minor, and it is issued on a form filled out by the competent police officer of the Border Police. The foreign national signs the receipt of the decision on the decision form and keeps one copy for her/himself. If the foreign national refuses to sign the receipt of the decision, this fact is entered as a note on the decision form and it is considered that the decision was duly delivered. (4) The competent police officer of the Border Police at the border crossing warns a foreign national who has been refused entry into BiH that s/he is obliged to immediately leave the area of the border crossing and prohibits him from entering the territory of BiH. (5) The decision on refusal of entry must contain the reason for refusal of entry, and it is issued on a form and delivered to the foreign national. If the foreign national refuses to receive the decision, this fact is entered as a note and it is considered that the decision has been duly delivered. (6) The decision on refusal of entry is executed immediately, by entering the imprint of the stamp "ENTRY REFUSED", i.e. other appropriate markings in the foreigner's travel document. If the foreign national does not have a

travel document in which a stamp impression or other appropriate marking could be entered, this fact is entered as a note in the decision form. (7) An appeal against the decision on refusal of entry may be submitted to the Ministry within 15 days from the date of delivery of the decision. The appeal shall not stay the execution of the decision. (8) A foreign national who has been denied entry may enter BiH after removing the reasons for which s/he was denied entry. (9) If in the appeal procedure it is determined that a foreign national was unjustifiably denied entry to BiH, this fact is entered into the Central Database of Foreign Nationals, and when the foreign national re-enters BiH, the stamp on refusal of entry shall be cancelled by the "CANCELLED" stamp.

14. What measures are being taken to prevent trafficking in human beings in sports? Which sectors and categories/groups of people are identified as vulnerable?

Through a digital awareness campaign (30 July - 18 October 2024), IOM also touches on the issue of trafficking in human beings in sports through content that includes a message from IOM's goodwill ambassadors, a basketball player, as well as an athlete who was himself exploited as a child.

15. Have you identified online practices that may increase your risk of becoming a victim of trafficking in human beings due to various forms of exploitation? What mechanisms have been developed to prevent the misuse of information and communication technology for the purposes of trafficking in human beings? What is the practical effect of their implementation?

Police agencies have developed cyber departments that monitor problematic websites and social networks with the aim of preventing and gathering evidence of potential cases of online recruitment. The recorded cases refer to the advertising of offers for employment, as well as sexual services.

Police agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina have identified online practices that can increase the risk of becoming a victim of trafficking in human beings through various forms of exploitation, in the form of insufficient education in information and communication technologies, especially on the part of children and elderly people.

During the month of February 2024, a Web application was launched to help victims of trafficking in human beings, which provides a key platform for anonymous reporting and access to legal aid. Focused on the security and protection of the user's identity, this application enables victims and witnesses to report cases of trafficking in human beings without fear of reprisal or identity compromise. Through an intuitive interface, users can submit a report anonymously, describing their situation in detail without the need to disclose personal information. This option ensures that the first step can be taken without fear of identification by human traffickers or other dangerous actors. Furthermore, the application provides the option of a direct, secure conversation with a lawyer, allowing users to receive specialised legal advice tailored to their needs. This conversation takes place through an encrypted channel, guaranteeing the confidentiality and protection of all exchanged information. A unique feature of the application is the ability to securely deliver documents and other relevant information needed to provide legal assistance. Whether it is photos, videos, or official documents, users can transfer these materials directly through the application, knowing that the data will be protected with the highest security standards. All the functionalities of the application are designed with an emphasis on user anonymity and security. Advanced data encryption and anonymization techniques have been implemented to ensure that users can securely communicate and share information without the risk of compromising their privacy or security. Currently, the web application to help victims of trafficking in human beings is in a testing phase, which is crucial for identifying and improving functionality, security and user experience. After this phase, a full promotion of the application is planned with the aim of spreading awareness and familiarising all vulnerable categories with the available resources and support that the application provides. Special attention is paid to the inclusivity and accessibility of the application to potential victims of trafficking in human beings who are not from the local area and may be foreign nationals. For this very reason, the application is also available in English. After the end of the test phase and the implementation of all necessary improvements, the planned promotion

activities will include campaigns on social media, cooperation with relevant organisations and institutions, and the use of different media to ensure that information about the application reaches all vulnerable categories. The goal is to create a strong, safe and accessible platform that provides the necessary help and support to victims of trafficking in human beings, wherever they are.

During research on the knowledge, attitudes and habits of young people on the Internet, carried out by MFS-EMMAUS, it was noted that every 4 people (21.3% of 800 respondents) would agree to a meeting with an unknown person they met on the Internet, which potentially can lead to some form of exploitation.

Mechanisms for preventing misuse of information and communication technologies:

- MFS-EMMAUS, through the Safe Internet Centre, has developed a number of preventive mechanisms that include education on the safe use of technology, as well as tools for identifying suspicious activities. Through portals like www.sigurnodijete.ba, users are provided with guides and advice on how to avoid online traps and protect themselves and their children from potential exploitation attempts.
- These mechanisms include options for reporting suspicious online activities, which enable the relevant institutions to react quickly.

Practical effects of implementation:

- The implementation of these mechanisms has already brought concrete results. Education through 11 online and traditional campaigns, 125 educational workshops and webinars, raise awareness of children, parents, teachers and child care experts of the Internet threats. In the period 2020-2024, through the SOS line for reporting inappropriate content (HOTLINE), MFS-EMMAUS received and analysed a total of 3739 reports, while since its establishment, more precisely since 2010, it has received and analysed more than 4700 reports. As mentioned, in the past 5 years, a large number of reports have been received and analysed:
 - 2020 – 145 reports;
 - 2021 – 3021 reports;
 - 2022 – 215 reports;
 - 2023 – 150 reports;
 - 2024 – 178 reports.

In the period 2020 – 2024, MFS-EMMAUS registered a total of 380 inquiries regarding advice and support through the advice and support SOS line (HELPLINE), of which:

- 2020 – 35;
- 2021 – 40;
- 2022 – 102;
- 2023 – 84;
- 2024 (until 01/09/) – 119.

That is:

- calls: 247;
- e-mail: 66;
- Psychological counselling - live: 67.

16. What measures are being taken to raise awareness of the risks of trafficking in human beings through technology, including among children, parents, teachers, childcare professionals and social workers? What technology-based initiatives exist in your country to disseminate information to groups/communities at risk of trafficking in human beings?

In accordance with the Action Plan for combatting cybercrime, campaigns to raise the awareness of target groups, parents, children, and teaching staff are regularly conducted in such a way that trained professionals who deal with this issue educate the abovementioned target groups, as well as by distributing promotional leaflets.

One of the initiatives related to raising awareness of the proper use of digital media, and of the manner in which to protect oneself against misuse in the digital environment, is the introduction of the subject "Digital World" and the subject "Media Literacy" into the curriculum.

One of the key initiatives is the development of an interactive mobile application designed to improve the assessment and proactive identification of victims of trafficking in human beings. Launched in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2022 in cooperation with the IOM and the MoS of Bosnia and Herzegovina, this application uses technology for better identification and raises awareness of trafficking in human beings, including citizens in the identification process. IOM further expanded these efforts at the regional level in 2024, replicating the mobile application in Serbia, which strengthened its influence throughout the region.

The digital awareness campaign (30 July – 18 October 2024) promoting the existing digital application also aims to sensitise citizens about the risks of labour exploitation among domestic and foreign workers, with special emphasis on issues such as forced begging, and it also points to the dangers of trafficking in human beings in digital spheres (online advertising, employment).

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, raising awareness of the risks of trafficking in human beings with the help of technology includes various measures and initiatives, including education of children, parents, teachers and other professionals. Some of the approaches of MFS-EMMAUS are:

- education and raising awareness of trafficking in human beings through online campaigns. MFS-EMMAUS continuously implements this type of campaigns;
- developing materials for schools and educational institutions covering topics such as recognising the signs of trafficking in human beings, internet safety and how to report suspicious activity. During the current year, MFS-EMMAUS developed an educational picture book for children and young people titled "Everything you need to know about trafficking in human beings" as part of a project funded by the EU in Bosnia and Herzegovina titled "Voice of civil society organisations in combatting trafficking in human beings", which picture book received excellent feedback from users in a short period of time;
- organisation of webinars and online training for teachers, social workers and other professionals on violence against children in the digital environment, and on recognising and responding to all types of violence, as well as trafficking in human beings;
- Technology-based initiatives - websites and portals, such as www.sigurnodijete.ba and www.eurcentre.ba provide information and resources on protecting children from violence and trafficking in human beings. These portals offer guides, advice and contact information for help, reporting, advice and support;
- Communication and cooperation with other non-governmental or governmental organisations.

"Novi put" self-initiatively and in accordance with the available capacities carries out measures to raise awareness of the risks of trafficking in human beings with the help of technology, including among children, parents, teachers, child care specialists and social workers, based on the information we receive from the users of our services.

As part of awareness-raising activities with young people, "Medica" Zenica has developed an online course on Children's Rights and Women's Rights, which also deals with the topic of "Trafficking in human beings". Link for online module: <https://zanasubuducnost.ba/> and it continuously promoted it during various campaigns and educations.

Also, "Medica" Zenica developed the online application *Prijavi nasilje.ba*, through which citizens could inform themselves or report any form of gender-based violence, including trafficking in human beings.

Education and raising awareness through online campaigns - in the abovementioned period, MFS-EMMAUS implemented a total of 11 online campaigns (of which 4 are currently active) related to the prevention and raising awareness of the general public both of the problem of trafficking in human beings and of violence against children in the digital environment;

- *traditional campaigns* - In addition to the online campaign, in the referenced period MFS-EMMAUS also implemented eleven (11) traditional campaigns that include the development of 8 radio jingles with the aim of sensitising the public about the problems of trafficking in human beings and violence against children in digital environments. With the same goal, a total of 18 different posters and 7 leaflets were also developed and printed, which were distributed to primary and secondary schools, social work centres, mental health centres, and law enforcement agencies operating throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- a total of 125 educational workshops and webinars were held by MFS-EMMAUS for parents/guardians, teachers, social workers and other professionals. More than 3,600 participants gained knowledge about the prevention of violence against children and gender-based violence in the digital environment, as well as trafficking in human beings;
- *Technology based initiatives* - websites and portals such as www.sigurnodijete.ba and www.eurcentre.ba provide important information and resources to protect children from violence and trafficking in human beings, and there is also website www.mfs-emmaus.ba that provides important information related to protection from all forms of violence and trafficking in human beings. These portals offer guides, advice and contact information for assistance, incident reporting, advice and support, enabling quick and easy access to key information for all interested parties.

17. How do you cooperate with ICT companies and Internet service providers, including content hosts and social networks, in the prevention of trafficking in human beings?

Law enforcement agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina, have continuous cooperation with ICT companies in the country and abroad. This cooperation includes the acquisition of data based on the orders of the courts having jurisdiction thereof, while in urgent cases, such as threats to life or abuse of minors, the data is obtained through an accelerated procedure.

The Safe Internet Centre, which operates within MFS-EMMAUS, actively receives reports and deals with the suppression of illegal activities related to violence against children in the digital environment, as well as trafficking in human beings. Based on signed protocols with the Federation Police Administration (FUP), the Brčko District Police (PBD), and the Ministry of the Interior of Republika Srpska (MUPRS), reports are analysed or forwarded directly to the competent police agencies, depending on the region. Reports received by the Centre are analysed and forwarded to FUP and PBD, while reports for MUPRS are forwarded without analysis, in accordance with the signed protocol.

Reports related to indications of trafficking in human beings are also forwarded to local anti-trafficking coordination teams to ensure a timely response.

For content hosted outside BiH, the Centre uses the INHOPE database ICCAM, which is hosted by INTERPOL and serves as an important channel for INTERPOL's ICSE database, as well as the IWOL list. This cooperation enables a faster reaction and removal of content at the international level.

18. How are policies and practices aimed at preventing trafficking in human beings based on the experiences of victims and at-risk individuals?

In accordance with the Strategy for combating trafficking in human beings and action plans, risk groups and areas where special attention is paid have been identified.

In cooperation with the NGO "Novi početak" whose founders and current members are survivors of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation, we create policies and plan activities for the prevention of trafficking in human beings.

Representatives of the aforementioned non-governmental organisation participated in the creation of the Action Plan of the Government of Republika Srpska for combating trafficking in human beings.

IOM has also achieved close cooperation with the association "Novi početak" (the only association in Bosnia and Herzegovina founded by survivors) by awarding a grant for their human and technical

capacity building. Additionally, IOM continuously includes association members/survivors in its activities (e.g. round tables, trainings) in order to convey their authentic experience and thus raise awareness among the key operative actors involved in the response to trafficking in human beings in BiH, but also in the region.

MFS-EMMAUS has also included survivors of trafficking in human beings in its prevention and awareness raising activities, respecting their opinion when creating materials, educations and other activities. Among other things, the experiences of survivors of trafficking in human beings are integrated into prevention through:

- consultations;
- inclusion of surviving victims;
- questionnaire analysis and identification of risk factors;
- evaluations;
- education and sensitisation;
- access to surviving victims;
- support for surviving victims;
- organising psychosocial support;
- partnership.

MFS-EMMAUS policies and practices aimed at preventing trafficking in human beings are based on the experiences of victims and at-risk individuals, thus ensuring that activities are grounded in real needs and challenges. As part of these efforts, MFS-EMMAUS works closely with the non-governmental organisation "Novi početak," the only association in BiH founded by survivors of trafficking in human beings. Through this cooperation, survivors actively participate in the creation of educational materials, training and other preventive activities, providing key insights and opinions.

Based on this cooperation, MFS-EMMAUS organised two round tables in which a total of twenty-two (22) surviving victims of trafficking in human beings participated, as well as three (3) members of the victims' families. With the collection of forty-seven (47) survivors' statements, recommendations for prevention, intervention and post-experiential phases of recovery were developed. The recommendations are divided into three key phases:

- **Recruitment phase:** Recommendations for preventive measures that reduce the risk of entering the trafficking in human beings chain.
- **Exploitation phase:** Recommendations for recognising situations of trafficking in human beings and measures to get out of that chain.
- **Phase after the trafficking experience:** Recommendations for repatriation and resocialisation of victims, with the aim of their successful recovery and reintegration into society.

This comprehensive approach ensures that the policies and practices of MFS-EMMAUS directly reflect the needs and experiences of the most vulnerable groups, which contributes to a more effective combating trafficking in human beings.

II. IDENTIFICATION OF VICTIMS AND PROTECTION OF THEIR RIGHTS (Articles 10, 11, 12, 14 and 16)

19. Among the identified victims of trafficking in human beings, was any person exposed to exploitation based on their sexual orientation and/or gender identity (LGBTI+: lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex), especially teenagers and young adults? If so, have any of them reported police misconduct? NO

There were no reports of misconduct by police officers.

20. What concrete measures are being taken to ensure that victims of trafficking in human beings, say migrant workers, including those in an irregular situation, are identified as victims of trafficking in human beings and that they have access to the rights provided for in the Convention? Is there

cooperation with specialised non-governmental organisations, trade unions and employers to improve the identification and protection of potential victims within these risk groups?

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, there are a number of activities aimed at educating and training labour inspectors and police agencies to identify potential victims of labour exploitation, especially among foreign workers. The new strategy envisages increased control by the Service for Foreigners' Affairs through extraordinary visits of foreign workers and ensuring respect for their labour rights.

In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, labour inspectors from all levels of government cooperate with non-governmental organisations and trade unions that inform them about violations of workers' rights and propose inspections at employers. They also cooperate with law enforcement agencies to protect workers' rights.

In **Republika Srpska**, labour inspectors also cooperate with trade unions and the Ministry of the Interior, overseeing the implementation of the Law on the Employment of Foreign Nationals and controlling work permits.

In the **Brčko District**, police officers, prosecutors and labour inspectors are trained to recognise migrant and domestic workers and inform them about their rights. The Rulebook on the protection of foreign victims of trafficking in human beings contains indicators for the identification of victims. The BiH Ministry of Security signs annual protocols with non-governmental organisations for housing and protection of potential victims of trafficking in human beings. Also, proceedings are not initiated against victims of trafficking due to illegal entry or presence in the country, if these actions are related to trafficking in human beings. This comprehensive approach ensures the protection of workers' rights and improves identification and support for potential victims of trafficking in human beings throughout BiH.

The protocol on cooperation between the police and labour inspectorates in the detection and investigation of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation and the referral of victims of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation in the entity/district/canton was made within the Council of Europe Project in July 2023. The purpose was to strengthen the cooperation of the signatories of the protocol on improving the prevention, detection and suppression of trafficking in human beings within their jurisdiction in criminal and misdemeanour proceedings, as well as the timely protection of victims of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation. The draft protocol was presented to relevant experts on 25 and 26 July 2023, at a workshop on the development of local protocols for the prevention, detection and investigation of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation, organised in Konjic for twenty-five experts, members of anti-trafficking teams from all administrative levels of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In accordance with the proposals and discussion from this workshop, the presented protocol was finalised and sent to the competent institutions in the country (ministries of the Interior and inspectorates) for final adoption, signing and implementation.

By the end of 2023, confirmations have arrived from Canton 10, West Herzegovina Canton, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, Zenica-Doboj Canton, Tuzla Canton, Bosnia-Podrinje Canton, Una-Sana Canton, Brčko District. Also, the proposal for the Federation of BiH and Republika Srpska was accepted. In November 2023, a Protocol was signed between the Ministry of the Interior and the Inspectorate of Canton 10 (Livno).

It is foreseen that the signatories of the Protocol, within three months after the conclusion of this Protocol, will create and adopt a detailed action plan for the activities of the police and the labour inspectorate in cases of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation, which will define Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), including a list of indicators of trafficking in human

beings for the purpose of labour exploitation, with the aim of improving the treatment on the ground in the mentioned cases.

21. What measures are in place to encourage victims of trafficking in human beings to report their situation to authorities and/or civil society organisations?

Non-governmental sector work, media campaigns.

The New Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2024-2027 as one of the strategic goals envisages the **Implementation of the provisions on non-punishment of victims of trafficking in human beings.**

- Consistently implement legal provisions, guidelines and mandatory instructions according to which it is prohibited to punish victims of trafficking in human beings for illegal acts committed as a direct consequence of being subjected to trafficking in human beings, especially victims of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation, forced begging and coercion to commit criminal offences.
- Carry out systematic and continuous training of the police, inspections, prosecutor's offices and courts on this topic.

The authorities will not initiate proceedings against the victim of trafficking due to illegal entry or presence in the country if these actions were carried out in direct connection with trafficking in human beings.

Action plan of the Government of Republika Srpska for combating trafficking in human beings 2024-2027 foresees activities aimed at raising awareness of the problem of trafficking in human beings, and campaigns and education are carried out continuously with the aim of raising awareness of the dangers of trafficking in human beings, and of the manner in which to report to competent institutions and protect and support potential victims of trafficking in human beings.

There are prescribed legal regulations that empower victims of trafficking in human beings to report their situation, also a large number of campaigns have been carried out to raise the level of awareness of both citizens and victims so as to report their situation to competent institutions.

The Regulatory Agency for Communications in Bosnia and Herzegovina (RAK) launched campaigns to raise awareness of trafficking in human beings through various communication channels. The main goal of the campaigns is to raise public awareness of the problem of trafficking in human beings, education on identifying potential victims and information on victims' rights. The campaigns use different media platforms, including television, radio, social networks and billboards, to reach a wide audience. The information focuses on different aspects of trafficking in human beings, including methods of recruiting victims, familiarising them with warning signs, and providing information on available resources and support for victims. RAK often collaborates with non-governmental organisations, government institutions and international agencies to ensure that campaigns are effective and reach target groups. In addition to campaigns, RAK also distributes educational materials and guides that help in understanding the problem of trafficking in human beings. Campaigns are crucial for mobilising society and increasing awareness of this serious social problem.

In order to encourage victims of trafficking in human beings to report their situation to the authorities and/or civil society organisations, MFS-EMMAUS implements a series of measures related to protection, support and raising awareness of their rights.

These measures include:

1. **Ensuring confidentiality and security:** All victims are guaranteed anonymity and security when reporting trafficking in human beings, thereby reducing the fear of revenge or stigmatisation (report via two (2) web portals www.sigurnodijete.ba and www.eurcentre.ba).

2. **Access to information:** In the period from 2020 to 2024, through five (5) innovative online and seven (7) traditional campaigns, where a total of eleven (11) posters and six (6) leaflets were developed, victims were informed about their rights and available services.

This information is often available in multiple languages and in disability-friendly formats, ensuring that everyone has equal access to help.

3. **Specialised support:** at the end of 2023, MFS-EMMAUS was forced, after 24 years of work, to close the largest shelter for the accommodation of all categories of victims - minors and adults, women/girls and men/boys, and victims - BiH citizens and foreign nationals, due to the financial situation, despite many years of efforts to overcome it and to obtain additional support. Until the closure of the largest shelter in the country and region (80 places), the association provided assistance to the largest number of victims: 342 victims of trafficking in human beings, of which 137 were children. The services provided to the victims include accommodation, clothing, shoes, hygiene supplies, rehabilitation services - all necessary medical services, hospitalisation in case of need, individual and group psychosocial support, work-occupational therapy, (pre)schooling and education with a mentor, education through practical work, as well as assistance in repatriation and resocialisation services according to the individual programmes developed for this purpose;
4. **Educational and informative campaigns:** since 2020, through a series of innovative and traditional campaigns (12 in total), education (45 educations attended by over 1,050 people), and the development of radio and video materials (6 radio jingles and 6 video materials), MFS-EMMAUS has been continuously raising awareness of trafficking in human beings and reporting opportunities. Also, 5 manuals and one picture book were developed, with the aim of providing additional information on the steps for reporting and resources for support.
1. **Cooperation with non-governmental organisations:** Through cooperation with civil society organisations, including specialised organisations for the support of victims of trafficking in human beings, such as "Novi početak", victims were provided with an additional level of support through two round tables, as well as through the development of a web platform in the abovementioned period, and through the aforementioned as well as through conversations, they are encouraged to seek help from those who have specific expertise in working with survivors.
2. **Legal framework and witness protection:** The legislative framework in BiH provides protection to victims and witnesses of trafficking in human beings through measures such as identity protection and physical security during court proceedings. These measures encourage victims to report their situation without fear of retaliation.

These measures, combined with ongoing efforts to improve access and quality of services, aim to create a safe environment in which victims can report trafficking in human beings and receive the support they need to recover.

22. What specific measures are being taken in your country to detect/identify and refer possible victims of trafficking in human beings at the borders? What measures are being taken in your country to identify victims of trafficking in human beings during the consideration of asylum applications and before the return of persons whose applications have been rejected? P

According to the referral mechanism, the Service for Foreigners' Affairs is immediately notified and accommodation is provided in a safe house, and the procedure for temporary residence on a humanitarian basis is applied.

In the period 2020 - 2024, MFS-EMMAUS developed two informative and educational posters, which contained key information about important contacts for reporting and informing about suspected trafficking in human beings. These posters are made in six languages (BHS, English, Urdu, Pashto, Farsi and Arabic), thus ensuring accessibility for different language communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They are distributed throughout the country, including law enforcement agencies, border crossings, centres for social work, non-governmental organisations, as well as the general public, in printed and electronic format.

23. What measures are being taken in your country to identify victims of trafficking in immigration detection centres and prisons?

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the identification of victims of trafficking in human beings is a key component in combatting this serious violation of human rights. Measures taken in temporary reception centres and immigration centres and in prisons to identify potential victims of trafficking in human beings are training of personnel (police officers, Services for Foreigners' affairs, and prison staff) in order to better recognise indications of trafficking in human beings. This includes recognising physical and psychological signs, as well as understanding behavioural patterns that may indicate the presence of victims of trafficking in human beings. Protocols and standards for identifying and dealing with suspected cases help staff to react properly in cases where trafficking in human beings is suspected. Cooperation with non-governmental organisations and agencies that provide professional assistance and support in the identification and protection of victims of trafficking in human beings is also an important component. These organisations often provide training and resources for officers dealing with this issue. The legislative framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina is harmonised with international standards in combatting trafficking in human beings. Laws and regulations prescribe how to act in case of identification of potential victims. In certain cases, especially in temporary reception centres and immigration centres, victims of trafficking in human beings may be offered a psychological evaluation, in order to identify signs of trauma that are characteristic of trafficking in human beings. Protecting privacy and trust, ensuring that interviews and conversations with people who may be suspected of being potential victims of trafficking in human beings are conducted in a way that ensures their privacy and trust can help uncover real information about their status.

The Directorate for the Coordination of Police Bodies and the Service for Foreigners' Affairs, together with IOM BiH and non-governmental organisations, perform extensive information campaigns.

Training activities of relevant institutions are regularly carried out in order to identify victims of trafficking in human beings. Service officers who are in direct contact with migrants and asylum seekers in order to identify victims of trafficking in human beings have undergone training in the field of trafficking in human beings.

24. What services are available in your country to provide special assistance to particularly vulnerable victims, such as:

- a. persons with disabilities;
- b. LGBTI+ persons;
- c. victims with children;
- d. victims with severe psychological and physical trauma;

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, three crisis centres (Sarajevo, Mostar and Tuzla) have been established for victims of rape and sexual violence.

Action plan of the Government of Republika Srpska for combating trafficking in human beings 2024-2027 recognizes particularly sensitive categories in order to raise awareness of professionals and recognise indicators of trafficking in human beings, but regardless of which category it is, all victims enjoy the same rights to protection and support and are immediately referred to the competent authorities that provide support and protection. Centre for Social Work is a key institution to represent and protect the rights of minor victims of trafficking in human beings, as well as any other person who needs social protection services.

The aforementioned categories, if they meet the conditions in accordance with the Law on Social Protection and the Law on Child Protection of the Brčko District of BiH, receive a certain amount of material assistance.

- e. homeless people;
- f. other.

25. How do you support the (re)integration of victims of trafficking in human beings? What processes exist in your country to assist victims of trafficking exploited abroad after their return?

All victims enjoy the same rights of protection and support and are immediately referred to the competent authorities that provide support and protection.

Reintegration is the weakest link in the system of protection of minor and adult victims of trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 2024, the non-governmental organisation "Zemlja djece u BiH" conducted research on the reintegration of victims of trafficking in human beings within the framework of the USAID/INSPIRE Human Rights Protection Programme¹². The results of the research indicated that the process of reintegration of victims relies heavily on the enthusiasm and improvisation of experts working in centres for social work. Professionals involved in the research pointed out that reintegration is difficult to achieve due to numerous legal and financial obstacles.

An example of this is the case of a sixteen-year-old boy, a victim of organised trafficking in human beings, who spent almost three years in a safe house, and during that time he had no access to further education. After leaving the safe house, he could not continue regular education, so his only option was adult education, in accordance with the Law on Adult Education. According to this law, persons over the age of 15 are considered adults and must bear the costs of their education themselves, which amount to KM 400 per primary school class.

Furthermore, domestic victims of trafficking in human beings are not recognised as beneficiaries of the right to free legal aid according to the Law on Free Legal Aid. There are no social housing or other forms of housing support for the victims, which further complicates their reintegration, especially in cases where the victims cannot return to their previous environments due to fear of reprisals.

Not a single respondent in this research, which refers to adult victims of trafficking in human beings who were exploited abroad and then returned to the country, received financial assistance from the social protection system or support in finding employment. Respondents also stated that they had to bear the costs of medical treatment themselves upon returning to their local communities, despite the fact that they all had health insurance. All victims reported situations in which they had to give up going to the doctor or buying medicines because they could not afford these services.

After leaving the safe houses or completing the phase of stabilisation of the acute psychophysical state, none of the surveyed victims of trafficking in human beings had the opportunity for professional training or participated in educational programmes that would help them find employment. These data clearly indicate serious deficiencies in the existing system of reintegration of victims of trafficking in human beings. There are no regulations or mechanism, but the state makes continuous efforts to improve these processes.

26. If there is a provision in the law of your country that foresees the possibility of issuing a residence permit due to the victim's personal situation, and how is this interpreted in practice? Please provide examples.

Allowing relatives of victims of trafficking in human beings to stay on a humanitarian grounds.

Article 58, paragraph (2) subparagraph a) of the Law on Foreigners ("Official Gazette of BiH" number: 88/15, 34/21 and 63/23) stipulates that temporary residence on humanitarian grounds may be granted in cases where the foreigner a victim of trafficking in human beings with the aim of proving him/her with protection and assistance for rehabilitation and repatriation into the country of his/her origin, habitual residence, or a country to admit him/he. In practice, this would mean that after the victim is placed in a safe house, where all psychosocial support and assistance are provided, a temporary stay can be granted due to the personal situation, i.e. his/her recovery and the acquisition of conditions for returning to the country of origin.

27. What measures are in place to ensure that the identity or identifying details of a child victim of trafficking in human beings are not publicly known?

It is regulated by Laws on the Protection of Personal Data, Criminal Procedure Laws, the Law on the Protection of Children and Minors in Criminal Procedure FBiH, the Law on the Protection of Minors of Republika Srpska.

Children victims of trafficking in human beings before, during and after the court proceedings enjoy special protection in accordance with the Law on the Protection of Minors, which regulates the above matter, and this includes an interview with the children in specially designated and adapted spaces, by experts trained to talk with children and a limited number of child victim hearings. In addition, prosecutors and judges who work on child trafficking cases undergo special specialised training.

In order to protect the private life and identity of the victims, the Criminal Code of Republika Srpska (Article 189) and the Criminal Code of the Brčko District of BiH (Article 216a) prescribe the criminal offence of "violation of the privacy of a child." According to these laws, any person who discloses or transmits data from personal or family life of the child, or contrary to the regulations publishes the child's photo or reveals his/her identity, and thereby causes a state of anxiety in the child, exposes him/her to the scorn of peers or other persons, or otherwise endangers the well-being of the child, is subject to sanctions in the form of a fine or imprisonment up to one year. If information about the child victim was shared through means of mass communication, a computer system or network, at a public gathering or in another way that made it available to a larger number of people, the penalty is a fine or a prison sentence of up to three years. In addition, if this offence was committed by an official or in the course of professional activity, the penalty is a fine or a prison sentence of up to three years.

During the management of the shelter, MFS-EMMAS never published photos, their data, nor the location of the shelter. All reports only state the number of persons and possibly initials. All documentation is stored in special databases provided for this, to which only a few employees have access, and which are also additionally protected by codes.

28. What measures are in place to encourage the media to protect the private life and identity of victims?

Following the recommendation of the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action Against Trafficking (GRETA) to the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina "to ensure the issuance of appropriate instructions regarding the protection of the private life and identity of all victims of trafficking in human beings, including domestic victims, in accordance with Article 11 of the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings", the Guidelines were prepared and published within the framework of the joint project of the European Union and the Council of Europe "Prevention and Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina". The Guidelines will help all levels of government in Bosnia and Herzegovina to develop and adopt instruments to improve the protection of the private life and personal data of victims of trafficking in human beings. The Guidelines are also intended for professionals dealing with victims of trafficking in human beings, including the media that provide information, in order to prevent possible harmful consequences for victims and their families.

Victims of trafficking in human beings are protected from potential retaliation or intimidation before, during and after legal proceedings, and from the very discovery of the criminal offence by the prosecuting authorities who inform the competent institutions. The victim is protected during the investigation and during the court proceedings in accordance with the applicable regulations. Respect for the victims' right to safety, privacy and confidentiality is ensured during the entire procedure in accordance with the law.

29. Have there been cases of diplomatic households (diplomats of your country abroad and foreign diplomats in your country) employing domestic staff in conditions that could be forced labour or trafficking in human beings? If so, how was the issue of diplomatic immunity resolved? How the victims were identified, how they were helped and whether they were protected?

Competent institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina had no registered cases of trafficking in human beings related to the abovementioned issue.

Members of the private service (PS) of foreign diplomats in Bosnia and Herzegovina have the right to a PS-type identification, which is only a foreigner's residence permit in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and holders of a PS-type identification card do not have diplomatic immunity.

The new rulebook on issuing identification cards (Official Gazette of BiH No. 29/24) regulates the status of private servants in a way to prevent exploitation or forced labour, as well as possible trafficking in human beings. Article 15 of the Rulebook regulates the following:

- (1) Upon arrival in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a member of the private service must be notified at the Ministry, and the Representative Office will request the issuance of an identification card. If it was not submitted in advance, it is necessary to attach a copy of the insurance policy, as well as a signed employment contract in the form of an employment contract.
- (2) If the applicant for an identification card comes from a visa regime country with Bosnia and Herzegovina, the employment contract must be signed before submitting the visa application at the diplomatic and consular representation office of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- (3) The identification card shall be renewed annually while the member of the private service works for the same member of the diplomatic or consular mission. When requesting an extension, the following additional documents must be attached:
 - a. A copy of insurance that covers health care and accidents twenty-four (24) hours a day for a duration of at least one year or the contractual period.
 - b. A copy of the bank statement for the past year showing salary payments.
- (4) The engagement of private servants is related to the service of a member of a diplomatic or consular mission, unless they are hired by another member of the same mission.
- (5) Members of the private service must always be in possession of their passport, Ministry identification card and personal belongings. Employment must be based on reasonable working hours, and weekly rest must be 24 hours continuously. The integrity and dignity of members of the private service should be ensured in accordance with the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.
- (6) The employer is obliged to pay wages and necessary insurance (life insurance, health insurance and accident insurance) via bank transfers. The employer must pay the return travel expenses of the member of the private staff upon termination of employment.
- (7) Identification cards for members of the private service will not be approved for periods longer than eight years in total. Members of the private service are not allowed to transfer to another official of the mission or consulate without the approval of the Ministry.

30. What concrete steps are being taken in your country to identify victims of trafficking in human beings among persons who have been recruited and exploited by terrorist/armed groups?

There are no registered cases.

31. Are there requirements in your country's legal framework for the disclosure and removal of Internet content related to trafficking in human beings, and what are the sanctions for non-compliance? Is there a code of conduct for service providers? If a person is revealed as a presumed victim of trafficking in human beings in the process, how is that person referred for help?

In 2006, Bosnia and Herzegovina ratified the Budapest Convention of the Council of Europe, which is the most relevant instrument aimed at crime through ICT, and the provisions of this convention were incorporated into the legislation of Republika Srpska.

On the territory of Republika Srpska, the law enforcement authorities deliver the orders of the courts having jurisdiction thereof to telecommunications operators in accordance with Article 137 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Article 137 of the Code prescribes:

(1) If there are grounds for suspicion that a person has committed a criminal offence, on the basis of motion of the prosecutor or officials authorised by prosecutor, the court may issue an order to a telecommunications operator or another legal person providing telecommunications services to turn over information concerning the use of telecommunications services by that person, if such information could be used as evidence in the criminal proceedings or be useful in collection of information that can be useful to the criminal proceedings.

(2) In the case of emergency, any of the measures under paragraph 1 of this Article may be ordered by the prosecutor and information received shall be sealed until the issuance of the court warrant. The prosecutor shall immediately inform the preliminary proceedings judge who may issue a warrant within 72 hours. In case the preliminary proceedings judge fails to issue such warrant, the prosecutor shall be obliged to return such information without accessing it.

(3) The measures under paragraph 1 of this Article may also be ordered against person for whom there are grounds for suspicion that s/he will deliver to or receive from the perpetrator the information related to the offence or if there are grounds for suspicion that the perpetrator uses a telecommunication device belonging to this person.

(4) Telecommunication operators or other legal persons that provide telecommunication services shall be obliged to enable enforcement of the measures by the prosecutor and police bodies under paragraph 1 of this Article.

Filing criminal charges against platforms used by marketers to advertise and connect with users also fall under market disruption activities. Acting on internet platforms has numerous advantages, the most important of which are the ability to reach a large number of potential clients and economy.

There is no code of conduct for service providers, however, telecommunications operators and other legal entities in emergencies act according to the reasoned requests of law enforcement authorities and in most cases deliver the requested information and also remove disputed internet content.

However, it is realistically possible to interfere with the interaction between potential users and the exploited, and a typical method includes the identification and removal of Internet content that serves to connect clients and persons involved in prostitution.

Article 86a of the Criminal Procedure Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina stipulates:

Order to the telecommunications operator

(1). If there are grounds for suspicion that a person has committed a criminal offence, on the basis of motion of the prosecutor or officials authorised by prosecutor, the court may issue an order to a telecommunications operator or another legal person providing telecommunications services to turn over information concerning the use of telecommunications services by that person, if such information could be used as evidence in the criminal proceedings or be useful in collection of information that can be useful to the criminal proceedings.

(2) In the case of emergency, any of the measures under paragraph (1) of this Article may be ordered by the prosecutor and information received shall be sealed until the issuance of the court warrant. The prosecutor shall immediately inform the preliminary proceedings judge who may issue a warrant within 72 hours. In case the preliminary proceedings judge fails to issue such warrant, the prosecutor shall be obliged to return such information without accessing it.

(3) The measures under paragraph (1) of this Article may also be ordered against person for whom there are grounds for suspicion that s/he will deliver to or receive from the perpetrator the information related to the offence or if there are grounds for suspicion that the perpetrator uses a telecommunication device belonging to this person.

(4) Telecommunication operators or other legal persons that provide telecommunication services shall be obliged to enable enforcement of the measures by the prosecutor and police bodies under paragraph (1) of this Article.

Order to the telecommunications operator, the Criminal Procedure Code of the Brčko District of BiH

Article 72a

(1) If there are grounds for suspicion that a person has committed a criminal offence, on the basis of motion of the prosecutor or officials authorised by prosecutor, the court may issue an order to a telecommunications operator or another legal person providing telecommunications services to turn over information concerning the use of telecommunications services by that person, if such information could be used as evidence in the criminal proceedings or be useful in collection of information that can be useful to the criminal proceedings.

(2) In the case of emergency, any of the measures under paragraph (1) of this Article may be ordered by the prosecutor and information received shall be sealed until the issuance of the court warrant. The prosecutor shall immediately inform the preliminary proceedings judge who may issue a warrant within 72 hours. In case the preliminary proceedings judge fails to issue such warrant, the prosecutor shall be obliged to return such information without accessing it.

(3) The measures under paragraph (1) of this Article may also be ordered against person for whom there are grounds for suspicion that s/he will deliver to or receive from the perpetrator the information related to the offence or if there are grounds for suspicion that the perpetrator uses a telecommunication device belonging to this person.

(4) Telecommunication operators or other legal persons that provide telecommunication services shall be obliged to enable enforcement of the measures by the prosecutor and police bodies under paragraph (1) of this Article.

III. INVESTIGATION, PROSECUTION, SANCTIONS AND MEASURES (Articles 4, 18, 19, 23, 24, 27, 28 and 30)

32. Is the abuse of a vulnerable position part of the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings in the law of your country? How are the terms "vulnerability" and "abuse of a position of vulnerability" defined in the law? Were they subject to judicial interpretation? If yes, please list the relevant case law.

The concept of "vulnerability" is not defined in the law itself, in order to avoid limiting and narrowing the possibilities of interpretation of Article 186 of the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the actions of judicial authorities. This implies the existence of a wide range of manifestations of the "vulnerability of the victim of the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings", including, but not limited to, those of a physical, psychological, emotional, family, social or economic nature.

In paragraph (1) of Article 186 of the Criminal Code of BiH (International Trafficking in Persons), where the essential elements of this criminal offence are defined, and its, shall we say, basic form, it is evident that the concept of vulnerability and abuse of a position of vulnerability is part of this criminal offence, which is particularly noticeable from the bold part of this paragraph: Whoever, by means of use of force or threat of use of force or other forms of coercion, by abduction, fraud or deception, **the abuse of power or influence or a position of vulnerability, or by giving or receiving payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person** having control over another person, recruits, transports, transfers, hands over, harbours or receives a person for the purpose of exploiting that person in a country where that person does not have a residence or of which s/he is not a citizen, shall be punished by imprisonment for a term not less than five years.

In the FBiH Criminal Code, Article 210a "Human Trafficking"

(1) Whoever, by means of use of force or threat of use of force or other forms of coercion, by abduction, fraud or deception, the abuse of power or influence or a position of vulnerability, or by giving or receiving payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, recruits, transports, transfers, hands over, harbours or receives a person for the purpose of exploiting that person, shall be punished by imprisonment for a term not less than five years.

(2) Whoever recruits, solicits, transports, transfers, harbours or receives a person younger than 18 years of age, for the purpose of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, forced begging, slavery or similar status, servitude or the removal of organs of human body or of other types of exploitation, shall be punished by imprisonment for a term not less than ten years.

(3) Exploitation for the purpose of this Article shall imply: prostitution of another person or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, forced begging, slavery or similar status, servitude or the removal of organs of human body or of other types of exploitation.

(4) In the event that the criminal offence referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Article is perpetrated by an official exercising his/her official duty, the perpetrator thereof shall be punished by imprisonment for a term not less than ten years.

(5) Whoever forges, obtains or issues a travel or personal document, or uses, retains, seizes, alters, damages, destroys a travel or personal document of another person for the purpose of facilitating trafficking in persons, shall be punished by a prison sentence between one and five years.

(6) Whoever uses the services of a victim of trafficking in human beings will be punished by prison sentence between six months to five years.

(7) In the event that the perpetration of the criminal offences under paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Article resulted in a serious health damage, bodily injury or death of the persons referred to in

paragraphs (1) and (2), the perpetrator shall be punished by a prison sentence of minimum ten years or long-term imprisonment.

(8) The objects and means of transportation used for the perpetration of the offences shall be seized.

(9) Whether a person consented to the exploitation is of no relevance to the existence of a criminal offence of trafficking in persons.

(10) Criminal proceedings shall not be conducted against a victim of human trafficking who was forced by the perpetrator of a criminal offence to take part in the perpetration of the criminal offence if such their conduct was direct consequence of their status of victim of human trafficking.

Abuse of vulnerable position" is visible in paragraphs 4 and 5, which means that the law has foreseen this "vulnerability". As for the case law, we currently have no relevant and detailed knowledge thereof.

Article 145 of the Criminal Code of Republika Srpska provides for the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings: "Whoever, by force or threat or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud or deception, abuse of authority or influence, abuse of relationship of trust, dependence or vulnerability, difficult circumstances of another person, by giving or receiving of money or other benefits in order to obtain consent of a person who has control over another person, recruits, transports, transfers, delivers, sells, purchases, intermediates in sale, harbours, receives or keeps a person for the purpose of the use or exploitation of that person's labour, perpetration of a criminal offence, prostitution, use for pornographic purposes, or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced begging, servitude, establishment of slavery or a similar relationship, forced marriage, forced sterilisation, for the purpose of the removal of organs or body parts, for the use in armed forces or of some other type of exploitation, shall be punished by imprisonment for a term between three to ten years ".

In this regard, the definition of the criminal offences "Trafficking in human beings", "Trafficking in children", "Association for the purpose of committing criminal offences of trafficking in human beings and child trafficking" contains the terms "...abuse of authority or influence, relationship of trust, dependence or vulnerability, difficult circumstances of another person...", which can be viewed within the meaning of the term "vulnerability" or "abuse of a position of vulnerability" or "vulnerability" in accordance with the Convention.

There was no case law in which the term "abuse of a position of vulnerability" would be interpreted. Proceedings are ongoing based on the indictment for the criminal offence of Trafficking in Human Beings on this basis, where the accused abused the position of vulnerability of the victim who has problems in intellectual development, and is in a poor financial situation, and was recruited for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

33. Whether the special vulnerability of the victim is considered an aggravating factor for the punishment of the perpetrator?

If it is a child, a stricter punishment is foreseen, but the court, when imposing the punishment, can weigh the special vulnerability of the victim in relation to the sanction.

If we were to look at the victim's vulnerability through the victim's age, it is clear that the legislator itself detects the need for stricter punishment, so in paragraph (2) of Article 186 of the BiH CC (International Trafficking in Human Beings) it prescribes: *Whoever recruits, induces, transports, hands over, hides or receives a person who has not reached the age of 18 for the purpose of exploitation through prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or a similar relationship, service, removal of parts of the human body or for the purpose of any other exploitation, in a country where that person does not have a residence or of which s/he is not a citizen, shall be punished by imprisonment for a term **not less than ten years**.*

So, in contrast to the basic form of the criminal offence where the special minimum threatened sentence is set at 5 years, in this case it is set at 10 years.

In paragraph (6) of the aforementioned legal provision, vulnerability itself as an aggravating circumstance is also detected through the possible serious consequences of this criminal offence, so the following is defined: *If the commission of the criminal offence referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Article results in severe damage to health, serious bodily injury or death of a person referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Article, the perpetrator shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term of **at least ten years or a long-term imprisonment.***

The special vulnerability of the victim, if it forms an element of the criminal offence of Trafficking in Human Beings and the criminal offence of Child Trafficking, could not be taken as an aggravating circumstance when sentencing the perpetrator, but only when deciding on the sentence within the prescribed sentence for these criminal offences (by imposing a longer sentence, at the upper maximum of the prescribed sentence).

The special vulnerability of the injured party/victim is considered in the FBiH Criminal Code as an aggravating factor for the punishment of the perpetrator.

Article 146 of the Criminal Code of Republika Srpska, in addition to the basic form of the offence referred to in Article 145, also provides for the criminal offence of child trafficking:

(1) Whoever recruits, transports, transfers, delivers, sells, purchases, intermediates in sale, harbours, keeps or receives a child for the purpose of use or exploitation of his/her labour, perpetration of a criminal offence, prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation, pornography, forced begging, servitude, establishment of slavery or similar relationship, forced marriage, forced sterilisation, illegal adoption or a similar relationship, for the purpose of the removal of organs or body parts, for the use in armed forces or of some other forms of exploitation, shall be punished by imprisonment for a term between five and twenty years.

(2) Whoever perpetrates the offence referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article by use of force, serious threat or other forms of coercion, by deception, abduction, blackmail, abuse of position, abuse of relationship of trust, dependence or vulnerability, difficult circumstances of another person, by giving money or other benefits in order to obtain consent of a person who has control over another person, shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of not less than eight years.

(3) Whoever uses, or enables other person to use sexual services or other forms of exploitation of a child, and was aware that it concerns the victim of human trafficking, shall be punished by imprisonment for a term between five and twenty years.

(4) Whoever seizes, holds or counterfeits or destroys personal identification documents with the purpose of perpetrating criminal offences referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Article, shall be punished by imprisonment for a term between three and fifteen years.

(5) If the criminal offence referred to in paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 4 of this Article was perpetrated within an organised criminal group, the perpetrator shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of not less than ten years.

(6) If the offence referred to in paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 4 of this Article is perpetrated by an official person in the exercise of duty, s/he shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of not less than ten years.

(7) If the criminal offence referred to in paragraphs (1) and (3) of this Article caused grievous bodily harm, serious health damage, or the death of one or more persons, the perpetrator shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of not less than twelve years.

(8) The consent of the minor to any form of exploitation referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article shall bear no relevance to the existence of this criminal offence

(9) Items, vehicles and facilities used for the perpetration of the offence referred to in this Article shall be seized.

(10) When the victim of child trafficking is forced by the perpetrator of the criminal offence to take part in perpetration of another criminal offence, the criminal proceedings shall not be conducted

against the child if such action has been a direct consequence of his/her status of a victim of child trafficking.

The special vulnerability of the victim is considered an aggravating circumstance based on the general rules for sentencing (mitigating and aggravating circumstances, Article 49 CC BD BiH).

34. According to national case law, what forms of vulnerability are most often abused by perpetrators in cases of trafficking in human beings? Please provide concrete examples that show how the concept of "abuse of a position of vulnerability" is used in practice. What are the challenges in its application? Is it enough to prove the existence of the victim's position of vulnerability, or must it also be proven that the accused knew or should have known about the victim's vulnerability, and deliberately manipulated the victim on that basis?

Forms of vulnerability that are most often abused in practice in cases of trafficking in human beings are poor financial condition, belonging to the Roma population, mental disorders... In addition to the vulnerable position of the victim, it is necessary to prove that the accused knew or should have known about the victim's vulnerability, and knowingly and intentionally manipulated a victim on that basis.

The Criminal Code of Republika Srpska prescribes a special criminal offence of Trafficking in Children. By prescribing this criminal offence, the category of children as a vulnerable group is generally given special importance due to their age. In terms of proving the victim's vulnerability, certain expert witness evaluation is to be provided.

From the previous answers, which in terms of meaning are intertwined with what has to be answered to this set of questions, it follows that the concept of "abuse of a position of vulnerability" as such is not particularly developed in the case law. It is certain that, hypothetically speaking, with regard to the general practice in all other criminal cases, the public prosecutor, who has the burden of proof, would have the obligation to prove that the accused knew about the vulnerability on the part of the victim, as well as the facts related to the vulnerability in an objective sense, if s/he is to achieve that the fact of vulnerability is adequately valued (when punishing the perpetrator).

35. Does the concept of "abuse of a position of vulnerability" address criminal justice training? Are there any specific guidelines for applying this concept? Please provide copies of guidelines and/or training materials that shed light on how this concept should be put into practice.

Judicial and Prosecutorial Training Centres in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) and Republika Srpska (RS) regularly organise trainings on the prosecution of criminal offences of trafficking in human beings. The trainings focus on the prosecution of criminal offences of trafficking in human beings and consider the personal and other circumstances of the victims.

Judicial Guidelines for the Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings were recently adopted, including Minimum Standards for providing quality assistance and support to victims, especially children. These Guidelines were published in the *Official Gazette of Bosnia and Herzegovina*, No. 38/23, of 4 October 2023.

36. What procedures and measures exist in your country to take into account the specific needs of vulnerable victims at different stages of criminal proceedings?

Prosecutor's Offices in BiH provide support to victims through the Witness Support Department, applying protection measures in accordance with the Law on Witness Protection. Special attention is paid to the protection of vulnerable victims, including the possibility of hearing in special rooms and the removal of the accused from the courtroom. Police agencies also ensure victims' rights, including free legal aid, refer victims to organisations that provide them with legal aid, and obligate prosecutors

to collect evidence of their property rights, safe housing, health care, and information about the course of the proceedings.

There are special procedures and measures prescribed by the Law on the Protection and Treatment of Children and Minors in Criminal Proceedings of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina when children appear as injured parties, as regards the manner of hearing them, the number of hearings, in whose presence they are to be heard, that they must not face suspects, that it should be ensured that they do not meet in the police premises, prosecutor's office and court, that they are interrogated from other rooms without the presence of the suspect in those rooms through a judge and a psychologist; to ensure access to the premises of the judiciary for disabled persons; to provide psycho-social and health support and assistance to former victims; to take care of them institutionally through the police and the centre for social work, and to help them in any other way.

MFS-EMMAUS is currently working on the development of the "**Manual for the provision of legal assistance to witnesses - victims of trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially children.**" This manual provides a comprehensive overview of the provision of legal assistance and support to victims of criminal offences, based on a human rights-based approach. The development of this publication aims to improve the capacity of witness support officers and experts in the judicial sector, in order to enable efficient and high-quality legal support for victims of trafficking in human beings, with a special emphasis on the protection of children. In this way, the specific needs of vulnerable victims will be adequately taken into account in all phases of criminal proceedings.

Guidelines are available at this link: <https://www.cprc.ba/resources>

37. If you have criminalised the use of the services of a victim of trafficking in human beings, how is this provision applied in practice? Please cite the relevant case law.

Legal provisions against using the services of victims of trafficking in human beings exist in the criminal laws of BiH, entities and the Brčko District of BiH. However, in practice they face processing difficulties. The key problem is proving that the service user was aware that it concerned a victim of trafficking in human beings. Because of this, although prison sentences are provided for, the case law is very rare or non-existent. In some cases, victims serve as witnesses against the main perpetrators. Courts and prosecutor's offices conduct trainings to improve the processing of these cases.

38. What technology-based tools and initiatives exist in your country to support investigations and improve the prosecution of trafficking in human beings cases? What training is provided to law enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges on trafficking in human beings with the help of information and communication technology?

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the application of forensic and technological tools, including artificial intelligence, is still at a low level. Although there are certain trainings, especially those related to trafficking in human beings in the digital context, additional improvements are needed. In cooperation with the BiH Ministry of Security, the IOM developed a statistical portal in 2021 for monitoring cases of trafficking in human beings and implementing strategies. Also, a digital learning platform and an application for victim identification were developed. IOM provides training to investigators and prosecutors, including digital investigation methodology through simulations of real cases, which will soon be implemented at the national level. In line with the development of new forms of trafficking in human beings through technology, international organisations have organised training to support investigations. Prosecutors attended seminars on the use of artificial intelligence in combatting trafficking in human beings, including events in Sarajevo and Neum during 2024.

The Action Plan of the Government of Republika Srpska for combating trafficking in human beings 2024-2027 prescribes a number of measures and activities:

- Implement and further develop the concept of proactive action in the suppression of all forms of trafficking in human beings (criminal and intelligence work, application of special investigative actions, financial investigations, increased surveillance of objects and persons of security interest, etc.), with the aim of more efficiently conducting criminal and financial investigations and punishing perpetrators of the criminal offences of trafficking in human beings.
- Ensure the specialist training for police officers and prosecutors in order to proactively focus on investigations of criminal offences of trafficking in human beings, especially on the protection and provision of assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings.
- Conduct trainings to ensure that the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings is qualified as such, and not qualified as a related criminal offence.

Mfs Emmaus supports prosecutors' expert counselling and focuses on the use of digital technologies, including AI, in combating trafficking in human beings. In cooperation with police agencies and experts, these trainings improve the knowledge of the participants at the national and international level.

Although there are efforts to improve capacity in combatting trafficking in human beings through technology, additional initiatives are needed in BiH for greater use of digital tools and improvement of education in this area.

39. In what ways, if any, does your country use the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention) to combat trafficking in human beings? If it does not use these provisions, why?

Bosnia and Herzegovina applies the provisions of the Budapest Convention in combatting trafficking in human beings using digital evidence. During investigations, police officers use data from social networks, chat rooms, fake job advertisements and e-mails to identify victims and perpetrators. The collection of this evidence is done legally through international legal aid, often referring to the Budapest Convention for the preservation of data from services like Facebook and Google.

In order to more effectively implement the Budapest Convention, Republika Srpska has taken significant steps aimed at building the legal framework and capacities. In this sense, the Law on Information Security was adopted and so were corresponding by-laws.

In the Judicial and Prosecutorial Training Centre of Republika Srpska, trainings on the implementation of the Budapest Convention are continuously held.

Bosnia and Herzegovina) uses certain provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention) in combatting trafficking in human beings, especially through activities aimed at combating threats and violence in the digital environment. Through the platform www.sigurnodijete.ba, which is part of the Safe Internet Centre, it is possible to report (anonymous or not) violence against children in the digital environment as well as all other forms of violence against children, including reporting inappropriate content and potential cases of trafficking in human beings. This platform actively uses cooperation mechanisms with police agencies with which the Centre has signed protocols, then with local coordination teams and international bodies, which ensures a faster exchange of information and action on reports that may include cyber aspects of trafficking in human beings.

The Budapest Convention provides a legal framework for strengthening cooperation between states regarding crimes in the digital space, and the www.sigurnodijete.ba platform uses these provisions to report and share information internationally through the INHOPE network (54 organisations from 50 countries). Although not always directly related to trafficking in human beings, this Convention helps to suppress online activities that may be related to exploitation and trafficking in human beings.

Part II – State-Specific Questions

40. Please provide information on measures taken in your country in relation to the following recommendations from previous GRETA reports:

- take steps to guarantee access to legal aid and free legal aid for victims of trafficking in human beings;

The Law on Providing Free Legal Aid ("Official Gazette", No. 83/16) provides free legal aid as a form of exercising the right to a fair trial and equal access to justice before the Court of BiH, administrative bodies and other bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Within the framework of the same Law, free legal aid is provided based on a person's status.

Article 15, subparagraph g) prescribes the conditions for obtaining free legal aid based on status, which stipulates that victims of trafficking in human beings have the right to free aid. This Law guarantees the right of access to legal aid for victims of trafficking in human beings, and this is made visible through the official website of the Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina, where there are regulations, necessary forms for access to free legal aid and contact information.

The Law on Free Legal Aid stipulates that the right to free legal aid is also available to natural persons who are on the territory of Republika Srpska, under international protection in accordance with international standards, and in particular refugees, persons under temporary admission, victims of trafficking in human beings, who cannot pay the costs of legal aid.

There is a large number of NGOs that provide free legal aid services, institutes for free legal aid, Judicial Guidelines for the Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings and Mandatory Instructions of Chief Prosecutors where prosecutors are obliged from the very beginning to grant free legal aid to victims of trafficking in human beings, as well as the adoption of orientation criteria on compensation for damages to victims in the criminal proceedings of the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Law on Free Legal Aid stipulates that the right to free legal aid is also available to natural persons who are on the territory of Republika Srpska, under international protection in accordance with international standards, and in particular refugees, persons under temporary admission, victims of trafficking in human beings, who cannot pay the costs of legal aid.

- guarantee efficient access to compensation for victims of trafficking in human beings;

Trainings and Judicial Guidelines for the Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings and Mandatory Instructions of Chief Prosecutors, where prosecutors are obliged from the very beginning to provide free legal assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings, and the adoption of orientation criteria on compensation for damages to victims in criminal proceedings at the Court of BiH.

The prosecutor orders an expert witness evaluation of the physical pain and physical injuries of the injured by a medical doctor, as well as an expert witness opinion on mental pain and fear by a neuropsychiatrist expert for the purpose of determining compensation for non-material damage, and in order to obtain the conditions for making a decision on the victim's property legal claim during the criminal proceedings.

The provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code of Republika Srpska prescribe the subject matter, procedure and decision-making on property claims. The aforementioned provisions clearly stipulate the possibility of submitting a property claim that arose as a result of the perpetration of a criminal offence, and that a property claim can refer to compensation for damages, restitution of property and cancellation of a certain legal transaction. Victims of trafficking in human beings are provided compensation for damages through the institute of property law claims, and the courts allow victims to receive a certain form of satisfaction.

- establish a national compensation scheme available to victims of trafficking in human beings, regardless of their nationality or immigration status;

The Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina issued a Decision on the establishment of a working group for drafting the Law on the establishment of a fund for the compensation of victims of criminal offences of trafficking in human beings, and the working group was operational and held 7 meetings, during which the following issues were considered: international legal sources related to the issue of compensation for victims of criminal offences of trafficking in human beings, comparative reviews of legal solutions in neighbouring countries, research on the case law in prosecuting criminal offences of trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina, issues of the status of victims in the criminal law of Bosnia and Herzegovina, "economic justification" of establishing a fund in relation to the number of criminal offences of trafficking in human beings, issues of establishing funds at the entity levels and the Brčko District of BiH and other issues necessary for the work of this working group.

In connection with the aforementioned discussed issues, at all meetings of the working group, the different views of its members were expressed regarding the following: interpretation of the abovementioned Strategy and Action Plan in terms of the need to adopt a single law that would establish a single Fund for the compensation of victims of criminal offences of trafficking in human beings throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina (taking into account the judgments of all courts in Bosnia and Herzegovina) or to adopt 4 laws and establish funds at four levels of government (level of BiH, Republika Srpska, Federation of BiH and the level of the Brčko District of BiH), in which case this working group would draft a law related only to the judgements of the Court of BiH and the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which means that only foreign victims would be protected by this law.

Through the Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Working Group also achieved cooperation with the Council of Europe within the framework of the project "Strengthening Anti-trafficking Action in Bosnia and Herzegovina", whose representatives attended the meetings of the Working Group on which occasion they presented the analysis of international documents entitled "Assessment of the situation with the aim of establishing a compensation scheme for victims of trafficking in human beings", and they obtained and presented relevant data on submitted property-legal claims in court proceedings in Bosnia and Herzegovina, from the databases of the OSCE and TRIAL organisations. However, in spite of all the professional activities and efforts made by the Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina, aimed at the implementation of strategic action and the achievement of the necessary consent, in accordance with the rules of procedure of this working group, in order to start the implementation of the Draft Law on the Establishment of the Compensation Fund for victims of criminal offences of trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina, it was not achieved due to absolutely divided official positions of the institutions whose representatives were members of the working group.

Working group without results, no agreement of Entities.

The proposed strategy for combating trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2024-2027 foresees a measure to establish mechanisms to guarantee effective access to compensation for damages to victims of trafficking in human beings, especially:

- by systematically informing victims of trafficking in human beings about their right to seek

compensation for damages in criminal and civil proceedings, as well as about the procedure they should follow, and to ensure that they are provided with effective legal assistance from an early stage of the procedure in order to exercise that right

- ensuring that the gathering of evidence of harm suffered by the victim, including financial gain from the victim's exploitation or loss suffered by the victim, forms part of the criminal investigation with a view to supporting claims for damages in court
- full use of legislation on confiscation and seizure of assets, as well as international cooperation, to ensure compensation for victims of trafficking in human beings and to ensure that property confiscated in criminal proceedings is returned to the victim as soon as possible
- providing support to victims in filing claims for compensation, including guaranteed access to free legal aid, and
- inclusion of the subject of victim compensation in educational programmes for lawyers, prosecutors and judges.

- ensure that acts of trafficking in human beings are investigated and prosecuted in an efficient manner, leading to proportionate and dissuasive sanctions;

Establishment of specialised departments in police agencies and prosecutor's offices is the priority. Training and specialisation of police officers and prosecutors is carried out for the purpose of identification of victims of trafficking in human beings, proactive investigation and successful conduct of criminal proceedings.

Action plan of the Government of Republika Srpska for combating trafficking in human beings 2024-2027, foresees a whole range of measures and activities aimed at intensifying the criminal prosecution of the perpetrators of the criminal offences of trafficking in human beings:

- Implement and further develop the concept of proactive action in the suppression of all forms of trafficking in human beings (criminological and intelligence work, application of special investigative actions, financial investigations, increased surveillance of objects and persons of security interest, etc.), with the aim of more efficient conduct of criminal and financial investigations and punishments for perpetrators of the criminal offences of trafficking in human beings.
- Ensure the specialisation of police officers and prosecutors in order to proactively focus on investigations of criminal offences of trafficking in human beings, especially on the protection and provision of assistance to victims of human trafficking.

Conduct training to ensure that the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings is qualified as such, and not qualified as a related criminal offence.

- take steps to improve identification and help child victims of trafficking in human beings.

Application of the Protocol on cooperation and action to combat child begging in the Brčko District of BiH between several institutions of different sectors, with the aim of recognising and preventing one of the forms of trafficking in human beings that is often present at the local level.

The Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2024-2027 envisages the following measures: **Provide special protection and assistance to child victims of trafficking in human beings.**

1. Improve identification and assistance to child victims, and:

- ensure that all actors take a proactive approach and perform more field work to identify children who are potential victims of trafficking in human beings, and continue to pay attention to children on the street, with the active involvement, where necessary, of Roma mediators
- provide further training to the police, prosecutors, non-governmental organisations, centres for

social work and child experts, providing guidelines for the identification of child victims and potential victims of trafficking in human beings, based on an agreed understanding of the concepts of trafficking for the purpose of forced begging, forced crime and early, child or forced marriages

- ensure that day care centres for children who live and work on the street or are at risk of becoming such children and centres for social work are adequately funded and that social workers are adequately equipped with the resources to act effectively as temporary legal guardians
- ensure that child victims of trafficking in human beings throughout the country benefit from appropriate accommodation, in particular by establishing specialised safe houses for children in all areas of the country
- strengthen efforts to ensure that child victims of trafficking in human beings over the age of 16 in practice receive special protection measures, like younger children, and ensure that all professionals who work with children receive appropriate interdisciplinary training on the rights and needs of children provided by certified lecturers within system solutions or through authorised certification houses
- establish reception centres as quick temporary solutions for the reception of children who are potential victims of trafficking in human beings
- establish a mechanism for monitoring support for child victims of trafficking in human beings during their stay in safe houses so that they receive the necessary services (education, health care, legal advice, repatriation, reintegration), as well as a mechanism for reporting on the services provided
- organise classes for children staying in safe houses and
- establish mechanisms for assessing the age of children exposed to the risk of trafficking in human beings in accordance with international standards, children's rights and the best interests of the child.

Action plan of the Government of Republika Srpska for combating trafficking in human beings 2024-2027 foresees a special measure for the protection and assistance of child victims of trafficking in human beings with a series of activities:

- Conduct trainings for all actors to identify potential child victims and victims of all forms of trafficking in human beings, especially for the purpose of forced begging, forced commission of criminal offences and early or forced marriage.
- Provide support and all necessary services adapted to the needs of child victims.
- Carry out a risk assessment before making a decision on returning a child victim of trafficking in human beings to the parents/guardians, taking into account the best interests of the child.

"Novi put" includes a free counselling centre for victims of all forms of exploitation, including children.

41. Please provide information on developments in your country since GRETA's third evaluation report regarding:

- emerging trends of trafficking in human beings;

Based on the data available to officers who work directly in the field, new trends in trafficking in human beings have been observed, which are reflected in: recruitment via TikTok and Facebook and taking them to EU countries, recruiting children to commit criminal offences, including labour exploitation, child exchange (taking to other countries and bringing new children who are already in those countries), begging in rural parts of the city, taking and waiting to make them less visible. Still the most common forms are begging and early forced marriages, while the growth of labour exploitation has been recorded.

Action plan of the Government of Republika Srpska for combating trafficking in human beings 2024-2027 foresees continuous research into the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings with the aim

of better understanding the phenomenon and determining trends and shortcomings in the legal and institutional framework.

- legislation and regulations relevant to anti-trafficking action;

Continuous work is being done on harmonising applicable legal regulations in accordance with international conventions.

Standard operational procedures for the protection and support of victims of trafficking in human beings in Republika Srpska are currently being developed.

Amendments to the Criminal Code of the Brčko District of BiH, adopted in March 2024, significantly improved protection against trafficking in human beings, harmonising the legislation with Lanzarote and the Istanbul Convention. Key changes include a more precise definition of criminal offences related to trafficking in human beings, and are now clearly separated into Trafficking in Human Beings (Article 207a), which refers to adults, and "Child Trafficking" (Article 207b). Important amendments include the extension of the form to "forced begging", "committing criminal offences", "forced or arranged marriage", "forced sterilisation", "forced pregnancy or artificial insemination". Then, the list of perpetrations includes "transfer", "sale", "purchase", "sales mediation" and "exchange or transfer of control over a person".

- institutional and political framework for action against trafficking in human beings (coordinating bodies, specialised bodies, national rapporteur or equivalent mechanism, involvement of civil society, public-private partnerships);

By decision of the Council of Ministers ("Official Gazette of BiH", No. 3/04), a Task Force was formed to combat trafficking in human beings and organised illegal immigration, as a form of organised crime. The Task Force is operational throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.

At the end of 2019, the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina initiated activities to reorganise the referral mechanism in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In connection with the foregoing and in accordance with the changes to the criminal laws in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 18 coordination/monitoring teams were formed throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, i.e. at the level of entities, cantons and the Brčko District of BiH. Coordination teams are led by coordinators from the Ministries of the Interior. Coordination teams carry out professional, operational and administrative technical tasks to strengthen functional links and cooperation between the competent authorities and non-governmental organisations that carry out activities in the area falling within their scope of responsibility, with the aim of suppressing and preventing trafficking in human beings, in particular: a) efficient and proactive identification of potential victims of trafficking in human beings and risky situations that lead to trafficking in human beings; b) efficient prosecution of perpetrators of crimes related to trafficking in human beings; c) ensuring more adequate protection and assistance to potential and identified victims of trafficking in human beings; and d) monitoring trends in trafficking in human beings and preventive action on the causes that lead to trafficking in human beings.

By decision of the Government of Republika Srpska, a representative of the Ministry of the Interior of Republika Srpska was appointed as the coordinator for combating trafficking in human beings in Republika Srpska, who is in charge of coordinating the activities of the institutions of Republika Srpska in relation to combating trafficking in human beings, competent institutions and organisations at other levels of government in BiH, and international and non-governmental organisations.

In order to improve cooperation at the regional and local level, the Government of Republika Srpska formed regional monitoring teams to combat trafficking in human beings in Republika Srpska. Six regional teams were established for Banja Luka, Prijedor, Doboj, Bijeljina, East Sarajevo and Trebinje, in accordance with the territorial organisation of district prosecutor's offices in Republika Srpska. District public prosecutors and police officers appointed to regional monitoring teams also form a network of prosecutors and investigators in Republika Srpska with the task of improving investigations into trafficking in human beings and related crimes. The basic task of the network of prosecutors and investigators is the analysis of related criminal offences whose investigation is ongoing and

consideration of the possibility of their qualification as criminal offences of trafficking in human beings.

In order to achieve adequate coordination of the institutions of Republika Srpska when implementing activities related to combating trafficking in human beings, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Labour and Veterans' Disability Protection, the Public Prosecutor's Office of Republika Srpska and the Republic Administration for Inspection Affairs have appointed civil servants who are responsible for the coordination of activities in accordance with the competences of each of the abovementioned institutions.

Since 2022, the non-governmental organisation "Zemlja djece u BiH" has developed local protocols for the prevention and suppression of child trafficking in 39 local communities¹³. Through the establishment of these protocols, local referral mechanisms were formed that include representatives of guardianship authorities, the police, primary and secondary schools, and health institutions, while in some communities, civil society organisations are also involved (such as shelters, day care centres, etc.). The protocol clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of all actors at the local level in combatting child trafficking and provides a detailed roadmap for the actions of local institutions. Also, a mechanism for regular monitoring and reporting on the situation concerning trafficking in human beings and its manifestations at the local level was introduced, which is applied by municipal administrations.

The protocol additionally established Mobile Teams as the most effective bodies for proactive identification of potential victims of trafficking in human beings. There are currently 11 Mobile Teams operating in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the following cities: Tuzla, Mostar, Sarajevo, Bihać, Cazin, Bosanska Krupa, Banja Luka, Visoko, Bijeljina, Zvornik and Živinice. The Mobile Teams consist of representatives of the police and guardianship authorities, while in Tuzla, Živinice and Bihać, representatives of non-governmental organisations and Roma mediators actively contribute to their work. In the border communities, the composition of the Mobile Teams was expanded to include representatives of the Border Police. The formalisation of the work of eight Mobile Teams was realised by making official decisions of municipal administrations on their formation. WVBH supports and works on the systematic establishment of Mobile Teams for the proactive identification of potential victims of trafficking in human beings and has so far established or supported 11 teams in strategically selected locations. The locations are selected according to the largest number of migration of children and adults found on the street while involved in begging, according to the largest number of Roma communities and the movement of people on the move, i.e. the migrant population. The said teams consist of representatives of the centre for social work and the police, and in certain locations cultural/Roma mediators are also members (Tuzla and Živinice). The teams were formally and systematically established by the consent of the competent ministries and/or the Decisions of the city local authorities for the establishment of such a team that works on prevention, early identification, reporting and first assistance. At the same time, with the aim of proactive action, teams work with children and families who are at risk and have a certain degree of vulnerability, cooperate with other relevant actors at the local level in order to prevent and protect potential victims.

- the current national strategy and/or action plan for combatting trafficking in human beings (goals, main activities, budget, bodies responsible for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of results);

Proposal of the Strategy for Combating Trafficking in human beings in BiH 2024-2027 was drafted by a Working Group composed of competent institutions from all levels of government in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

When drafting the Strategy Proposal, the following recommendations were taken into account: the Report of the Council of Europe Expert Group on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings, on the Implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings, Second Round of Evaluation; Analytical report of the European Commission with the Opinion on the application of Bosnia and Herzegovina for EU membership; Report of the Expert Assessment Mission of the European Commission on combatting trafficking in human beings; United States Secretary of State's Trafficking in Human Beings Report; and the Analytical report on the improvement of combatting trafficking in human beings in the crisis in the Western Balkans, of the International Organisation for Migration. After the Strategy is adopted by the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the development of action plans that will follow the implementation of the Strategy will begin. The Council of Ministers of BiH will adopt the Action Plan for the level of BiH, while the Governments of entities, cantons and the Brčko District of BiH will adopt their own action plans.

The Action Plan of the Government of Republika Srpska for combating trafficking in human beings 2024-2027 has been developed.

After the adoption of the Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Human beings in BiH 2024-2027 and in accordance with it, a Monitoring Team will be established to monitor the implementation of the Strategy.

In 2023, the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the financial support of USAID, evaluated the Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2020-2023. On the basis of the evaluation and the recommendations that were given, the first proposal of the new Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2024-2027 was prepared.

- recent case law regarding trafficking in human beings for various forms of exploitation.

A report "Research into the prosecution of human trafficking cases in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2003-2021)" was prepared. The referenced Report was produced within the framework of the project carried out by the Criminal Policy Research Centre (CPRC), within the framework of a grant funded by the USAID/INSPIRE Human Rights Support Programme. The project was realised in cooperation with the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina (HJPC BiH) and the Anti-Trafficking Department of the Ministry of Security of BiH.

Within the framework of the project, an analysis of a total of 104 final cases before the courts having jurisdiction thereof in BiH was made, in which 319 victims of these crimes were injured parties and a total of 148 perpetrators of trafficking in human beings and related crimes were sanctioned. The mentioned research is an integral part of the efforts made at the strategic level in Bosnia and Herzegovina with the aim of combating trafficking in human beings. The end users of the project, whom the results of the research can help to improve their own capacities and process trafficking in human beings more efficiently, are the relevant courts and prosecutor's offices in BiH, as well as the Judicial and Prosecutorial Training Centres in the Federation of BiH and Republika Srpska respectively.

Link for the material

https://www.fbih.cest.gov.ba/images/doclink/Izvjestaj-Trgovina-ljudima-2022-web-final_v2.pdf

Part III - Statistics of trafficking in human beings

42. Please provide the following annual statistics, beginning 2019, where available disaggregated as indicated below:

- The number of presumed and identified victims of trafficking in human beings in the sense that they have been recognised by a state institution or an authorised NGO as holders of the

right to services provided for by the Convention (with classification by gender, age, nationality, form of exploitation, whether it is internal or transnational trafficking in human beings and the body that identified them).

2019: The Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Anti-Trafficking Department, on the occasion of collecting and recording data in the reporting period from prosecutors' offices, law enforcement agencies, centres for social work and non-governmental organisations, which are necessary for compiling information on the situation concerning trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the year 2019, determined that in that year a total of 61 potential victims of trafficking in human beings/labour exploitation/induction into prostitution and/or sexual exploitation/trafficking for the purpose of begging/"sale, i.e. for the purpose of marriage"/lewd acts/exploitation of a child or minor for pornography and others, were identified/assisted.

Of the total number of potential victims of trafficking in human beings (61) in the period January - December 2019, 49 victims were female, and 12 victims were male. Of the total number of potential victims of trafficking in human beings (61) in the period January - December 2019, 25 victims were adults (21 female and 4 male), and 36 victims were minors (28 female and 8 male).

Of the total number of potential victims of trafficking in human beings (61) in the period January - December 2019, the following forms of exploitation were recorded: 36 begging, 15 sexual exploitation, 3 sales for forced marriage (combined with sexual exploitation or begging), 4 child or minor exploitation for pornography and 3 others.

Of the total number of potential victims of trafficking in human beings (61) in the period January - December 2019, 6 victims were foreign nationals, and 55 victims were citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

When it comes to foreign nationals, there were a total of 6 victims: 2 victims are Sri Lankan citizens (1 minor/male, 1 adult/female), 2 victims are Afghan nationals (2 minors/male) and 2 victims are citizens of the Republic of Serbia (1 adult/female and 1 minor/female).

2020: In the reporting period, a total of 70 potential victims of trafficking in human beings were identified/assisted in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Out of the total number of potential victims of trafficking in human beings (70) in 2020, 51 victims were female, 14 victims were male, and 5 victims were of unknown gender. Out of the total number of potential victims of trafficking in human beings (70) in 2020, 35 victims were adults (27 female and 7 male), and 35 victims were minors (24 female and 7 male). Of the total number of potential victims of trafficking in human beings (70) in 2020, the following forms of exploitation were recorded: 38 begging, 17 sexual exploitations and 15 other forms of exploitation. Out of the total number of potential victims of trafficking in human beings (70) in 2020, 7 victims were foreign nationals, and 63 victims were citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. When it comes to foreign nationals, there were a total of 7 victims: 2 victims were citizens of Syria (2 adults/female and male), 1 victim was from Afghanistan (minor/male), 2 victims were citizens of Iran (1 adult/female and 1 minor/female) and 2 victims were from Serbia (2/female minors).

2021: Based on the data collected by the newly formed coordination teams for combatting trafficking in human beings, in 2021 the total number of identified potential victims of trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina was 56, of which 33 were female victims and 23 were male. Of the total number of potential victims of trafficking in human beings, 7 victims were adults (6 female and 1 male), and 49 victims were minors (27 female and 22 male). Of the total number of potential victims of trafficking in human beings, the following forms of exploitation were recorded: 53 begging, 1 sexual exploitation, 1 other type of exploitation and 1 case of forced marriage combined with begging. Out of the total number of potential victims of trafficking in human beings, 1 victim was a foreign national (North Macedonia), and 55 victims were citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

2022: The total number of identified potential victims of trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina during 2022 was 38; of which 30 victims were female, and 8 victims were male; 9 victims were adults (8 female and 1 male), and 29 victims were minors (23 female and 6 male); The forms of exploitation registered during 2022 were: 16 begging, 8 sexual exploitation, 5 labour exploitation, 2 forced marriages and 7 other forms of exploitation; 32 victims were citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 5 victims were foreign nationals and one victim's citizenship was unknown; of foreign nationals: 3 victims were citizens of Pakistan (2 adults and one minor - male) and 2 victims were citizens of Afghanistan (2 minor males).

2023- The total number of identified potential victims of trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina during 2023 was 37, of which 26 victims were female, 11 victims were male, 9 victims were adults (all female), and 28 victims were minors (17 female and 11 male). During 2023, the following forms of exploitation were recorded: 19 begging, 8 sexual exploitation, 8 labour exploitation and 2 other forms of exploitation. A total of 32 victims were citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and 5 victims were foreign nationals, of which 2 victims were citizens of Uruguay (labour exploitation), 1 victim was a citizen of Slovenia (other form of exploitation); 1 victim was a citizen of the Philippines (labour exploitation), 1 victim was citizen of Croatia (forced labour).

2024- Total number of potential victims of trafficking in human beings until 1 July 2024 was 16. Victims by gender: 10 female (F) and 6 male (M). Victims by age: 3 adults (1 M/2 F), 13 minors (5 M/8 F). Forms of exploitation: sexual exploitation – 4, sexual/labour exploitation – 2, other forms of exploitation – 7. other – 1, forced labour/begging – 1, begging – 1; victims in safe houses – 15; victims by gender in safe houses – 9 F/6M; victims by age in safe houses – 12 M/3 F; victims by country: Bosnia and Herzegovina - 7 - 6M/1F, 4 sexual exploitations, 2 sexual/labour exploitations, 1 forced labour/begging; Turkey - 5 (4 M/1 F), 3 M/ 2 F, 5 other forms of exploitation; Afghanistan - 2 2 M 2 M 2 other forms of exploitation; Croatia - 1 (1 F); 1 M 1 sexual exploitation Germany 1 1F; other forms - 1 (1M).

- Number of victims of trafficking in human beings identified within the asylum procedure (classified by gender, age, nationality, form of exploitation).

In the referenced period, the Asylum Sector had no victims of trafficking in human beings identified as part of the asylum procedure, therefore the status of refugee or subsidiary/complementary protection could not be granted on the basis that they were victims of trafficking in human beings.

- Number of victims of trafficking in human beings who received assistance (sorted by gender, age, nationality, form of exploitation, internal or transnational trafficking).

2019: During the specified time period, 42 potential victims of trafficking in human beings were assisted in safe houses/shelters

2020: During the specified time period, 41 potential victims of trafficking in human beings were assisted in safe houses/shelters

2021: Help was provided to 52 potential victims in shelters.

2022: During 2022, 28 victims were assisted in safe houses managed by non-governmental organisations in Bosnia and Herzegovina

2023- In the reporting period, a total of 34 victims were assisted in safe houses managed by non-governmental organisations in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

- The number of child victims of trafficking in human beings who have been assigned legal guardians.

In accordance with applicable legal norms, all children who are potential/identified victims of trafficking in human beings are assigned a guardian from the competent centre for social work.

During 2019, the number of children who were assigned legal guardians was 36

During 2020, the number of children who were assigned legal guardians was 35

During 2021, the number of children who have been assigned legal guardians was 49

During 2022, the number of children who have been assigned legal guardians was 29

During 2023, the number of children who have been assigned legal guardians was 28

- The number of victims of trafficking in human beings who were granted a period of recovery and "reflection" (sorted by gender, age, nationality, form of exploitation).

In the period 2019-2023, the Service for Foreigners' Affairs placed 11 potential victims of trafficking in human beings in safe houses, who were granted a period of stay and "reflection", by year as follows: in 2019, there were no potential victims of trafficking in human beings; in 2020 – 2 potential victims of trafficking in human beings, citizens of Serbia; in 2021 – 2 potential victims of trafficking in human beings, citizens of Serbia; in 2022, 1 minor, a potential victim of trafficking in human beings, a citizen of Afghanistan and 5 minors, potential victims of trafficking in human beings, citizens of Pakistan; and in 2023 - 1 potential victim of trafficking in human beings, a citizen of the Philippines.

- The number of victims of trafficking in human beings who were granted a residence permit, with an indication of the type of permit (for the purpose of cooperation in the investigation/procedure, on personal grounds, other) and its duration (classified by gender, age, nationality, form of exploitation).

SERVICE FOR FOREIGNERS' AFFAIRS

Nationality	Years of age	Sex	Stay from	Stay until	Type of stay	Ground
Sri Lanka	14	M	20/07/2019	19/01/2020	prolongation	A victim of trafficking in human beings in order to provide protection and assistance if their stay is necessary due to cooperation with the competent authorities for the purpose of investigation in the detection and prosecution of the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings
Afghanistan	15	M	08/12/2019	07/06/2020	prolongation	A victim of trafficking in human beings in order to provide protection and assistance if their stay is necessary due to cooperation with the competent authorities for the purpose of investigation in the detection and prosecution of the

						criminal offence of trafficking in human beings
Afghanistan	16	M	08/06/2020	07/12/2020	prolongation	A victim of trafficking in human beings in order to provide protection and assistance if their stay is necessary due to cooperation with the competent authorities for the purpose of investigation in the detection and prosecution of the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings
Afghanistan	17	M	30/03/2022	29/09/2022	approval	A victim of trafficking in human beings in order to provide protection and assistance in recovery and return to the country of origin or the country of habitual residence or to the country that accepts him
Afghanistan	17	M	30/03/2022	29/09/2022	approval	A victim of trafficking in human beings in order to provide protection and assistance in recovery and return to the country of origin or the country of habitual residence or to the country that accepts him
Pakistan	18	M	30/03/2022	29/09/2022	approval	A victim of trafficking in human beings in order to provide protection and assistance in recovery and return to the country of origin or the country of habitual residence or to the country that accepts him
Pakistan	17	M	30/03/2022	29/09/2022	approval	A victim of trafficking in human beings in order to provide protection and assistance in recovery and return to the country of origin or the country of habitual

						residence or to the country that accepts him
Pakistan	18	M	30/03/2022	29/09/2022	approval	A victim of trafficking in human beings in order to provide protection and assistance in recovery and return to the country of origin or the country of habitual residence or to the country that accepts him
Philippines	46	F	12/10/2023	11/04/2024	approval	A victim of trafficking in human beings in order to provide protection and assistance if their stay is necessary due to cooperation with the competent authorities for the purpose of investigation in the detection and prosecution of the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings

- The number of persons who were granted refugee status or subsidiary/complementary protection on the basis that they are victims of trafficking in human beings (sorted by gender, age, nationality, form of exploitation)
add answer of PBDBiH
- The number of victims of trafficking in human beings who requested compensation, who were granted compensation and who effectively received compensation (classified by gender, age, nationality, form of exploitation, with an indication of whether the compensation was provided by the perpetrator or the state, and the amount of compensation).

By the judgment of the Banja Luka District Court No. **11 0 K 020196 18 K** of 20 February 2019, which was confirmed by the judgment of the RS Supreme Court, No. 11 0 K 020196 19 KŽ of 10 September 2020, the accused in the criminal case for the criminal offence of trafficking in minors referred to in Article 198 b.) paragraph 1 of the Criminal Code of Republika Srpska is obliged to compensate the female injured party for non-material damages, namely: for the fear suffered, the amount of KM 2,500.00 and for mental pain due to the reduction of general life activities, the amount of KM 5,000.00.

By the judgment of the Banja Luka District Court No. **11 0 K 026565 21 K** of 19 July 2021, the property claim was partially accepted and the first defendant is obliged to compensate the female injured party for the damage in the amount of KM 5000 for impairment of the general ability to live.

The number of victims of trafficking in human beings who requested compensation, who were awarded compensation and who effectively received compensation - 1 (non-final court decision awarding a property claim to the injured party for compensation of non-material damage in the amount of KM 6,100.00) - Brčko District of BiH.

- The number of victims of trafficking in human beings who received another form of financial assistance from the state, with an indication of the amount received.

Not a single victim of trafficking in human beings received financial assistance from the state

- The number of victims of trafficking in human beings who received free legal aid.

An inspection of the official records of the Office for Free Legal Aid at the Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina revealed that there was no action taken in relation to victims of trafficking in human beings. In 2023, the association Vaša Prava BiH provided legal assistance to 7 victims of trafficking in human beings, one of whom was a foreign national of the Philippines, and the rest were citizens of BiH, of whom 4 were children. During 2024, the association Vaša prava BiH had 5 cases of providing legal assistance. The Women's Rights Centre provided legal assistance to 1 victim of trafficking in human beings in 2019, 3 victims of trafficking in human beings in 2021, 16 victims of trafficking in human beings in 2022, and 6 victims of trafficking in human beings in 2023.

- Number of victims of trafficking in human beings who were returned to/from your country (sorted by gender, age, country of destination, form of exploitation).

During 2021, the Service for Foreigners' Affairs performed repatriation of 4 minors to the Republic of Serbia, in 2022, one repatriation of a Macedonian citizen, while in 2019, 2020, and 2023 there were no realised returns.

- Number of investigations into cases of trafficking in human beings (classified by type of exploitation, with an indication of the number of victims).

2019 - In the reporting period for criminal offences related to trafficking in human beings, the Prosecutor's Office issued 37 orders to conduct investigations against 48 persons and filed 20 indictments against 31 persons.

2020 - For criminal offences related to trafficking in human beings, the Prosecutor's Offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina issued 38 orders to conduct investigations against 43 persons

2021 – During 2021, the Prosecutor's Offices issued 50 orders to conduct investigations against 60 persons for criminal offences of trafficking in human beings and offences related to trafficking in human beings

2022 - During 2022, the Prosecutor's Offices issued 8 orders to conduct investigations against 11 persons

2023 - In 2023, the Prosecutor's Offices issued 7 orders to conduct investigations against 8 persons

- Number of criminal prosecutions in cases of trafficking in human beings (classified by type of exploitation, with an indication of the number of victims and accused in question).

2019 – Prosecutor's Offices filed 20 indictments against 31 persons

2020 - Prosecutor's Offices filed 25 indictments against 27 persons

2021 - A total of 30 indictments were brought against 37 persons

2022 - During 2022, the competent Prosecutor's Offices filed 7 indictments against 8 persons for the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings; For the criminal offence of organised international trafficking in human beings, the competent Prosecutor's Offices filed 1 indictment against 1 person; the competent Prosecutor's Office brought 1 indictment against 1 person for the criminal offence of inducing prostitution; for the criminal offence of inducing a child into prostitution, the competent Prosecutor's Office filed 1 indictment against 1 person; for the criminal offence of exploiting a child or minor for pornography, the competent Prosecutor's Offices filed 21 indictments against 21 persons; the competent Prosecutor's Offices filed 3 indictments against 3 persons for the crime of introducing a child to pornography.

2023- For the criminal offence of "International trafficking in human beings", the competent Prosecutor's Office brought 1 indictment against 2 persons. For the criminal offence of "Enticing a child into prostitution", the competent Prosecutor's Office filed 1 indictment against 1 person. For the criminal offences of "Exploiting a child or minor for pornography", "Exploiting a child for pornography" and "Using a computer network or communication with other technical means to commit the criminal offence of sexual abuse or exploitation of a child", the competent Prosecutor's Offices filed 16 indictments against 17 persons, while for the same criminal offences, three indictments were also filed with plea agreements for 3 persons.

- Number of convicted perpetrators of trafficking in human beings (classified by gender, age, nationality, form of exploitation).

2021 - During 2021, the courts in Bosnia and Herzegovina issued 1 first-instance and 1 final conviction for 2 persons with a sentence of 10 years in prison each for the criminal offences of trafficking in human beings and international trafficking in human beings. For the criminal offences of Exploitation of children or minors for the purpose of pornography, Production, possession and display of child pornography, and Exploitation of a child for pornography, Introducing a child to pornography, ten first-instance and 14 final convictions were pronounced for the same number of persons. One (1) first-instance conviction, 4 final convictions and 3 acquittals were pronounced for the criminal offences of solicitation of prostitution and international solicitation of prostitution.

2019 - In 2019, the courts pronounced 34 convictions against 34 persons

2020 - During 2020, courts in Bosnia and Herzegovina pronounced 30 convictions against 30 persons for crimes related to trafficking in human beings.

2022- During 2022, competent courts issued 5 judgements declaring the accused guilty

2023- In 2023, the courts having jurisdiction thereof issued 14 judgements in which 21 accused persons were found guilty and 3 judgements acquitting 3 accused persons for the crimes of "Trafficking in human beings", "Organised trafficking in human beings" and "International trafficking in human beings". For the criminal offences of "Inducing into prostitution" and "Inducing a child into prostitution", the courts having jurisdiction thereof issued 5 judgements in which 5 accused persons were declared guilty and 3 judgements in which 3 accused persons were acquitted. For the criminal offences of "Exploiting a child or minor for pornography", "Exploiting a child for pornography" and "Using a computer network or communication with other technical means to commit the criminal offence of sexual abuse or child exploitation", the courts having jurisdiction thereof issued 30 judgements in which 30 accused persons were found guilty and 6 judgements acquitting 6 accused persons.

5 convicted persons, male, year of birth: 1976, 1991, 1980, 2001 and 2001, 3 persons – BiH citizens, 2 persons - citizens of Afghanistan, in relation to 3 persons - labour exploitation, in relation to 2 persons - sexual exploitation;

- The number of convictions for trafficking in human beings, with an indication of the form of exploitation, whether the victim was an adult or a child, the type and duration of the sentences, and whether they were effectively executed or suspended.

2019 - In 2019, the courts issued 34 convictions against 34 persons. The courts made 4 decisions against 4 persons, rejecting the appeal as unfounded and confirming the first-instance judgement. Seven (7) decisions on the imposition of educational measures against 7 minors were also adopted. When it comes to the type of sentences imposed by the courts, the following were pronounced: 24 prison sentences against 24 persons and 1 suspended sentence against 1 person and 2 fines against 2 persons. One (1) measure of mandatory psychiatric treatment and custody in a health facility was also adopted. Also, in the reporting period, 4 acquittals were pronounced against 4 persons.

2020 - In 2020, the courts in Bosnia and Herzegovina pronounced 30 convictions against 30 people for crimes related to trafficking in human beings. Four (4) decisions on the imposition of educational measures against 4 minors were also adopted. When it comes to the type of sentences pronounced by

the courts, they were as follows: 16 prison sentences against 16 persons and 3 fines against 3 persons, which also makes a significant increase compared to the previous year.

2021 - During 2021, the courts in Bosnia and Herzegovina issued 1 first-instance and 1 final conviction for 2 persons sentencing them to 10 years in prison each for the criminal offences of trafficking in human beings and international trafficking in human beings. For the criminal offences of Exploitation of children or minors for the purpose of pornography, Production, possession and display of child pornography, and Exploitation of a child for pornography, Introducing a child to pornography, ten first-instance and 14 final convictions were pronounced for the same number of persons. One (1) first-instance conviction, 4 final convictions and 3 acquittals were pronounced for the criminal offences of Solicitation of prostitution and International solicitation of prostitution.

2022 - In 2022, the courts having jurisdiction thereof issued 5 judgments declaring the accused guilty of trafficking in human beings, while there were no judgments acquitting the accused; for the criminal offences of Organised trafficking in human beings, the courts having jurisdiction thereof pronounced 2 judgments declaring the accused guilty, while there were no judgments acquitting the accused; for the criminal offences of Organised international trafficking in human beings, the courts having jurisdiction thereof pronounced 2 judgments declaring the accused guilty, while there were no judgments acquitting the accused; for the criminal offences of Inducing prostitution, the courts having jurisdiction thereof issued 15 judgments declaring the accused guilty and 4 judgments acquitting the accused; for the criminal offence of International solicitation of prostitution, the courts having jurisdiction thereof issued 4 judgments declaring the accused guilty, while there were no judgments acquitting the accused; for the criminal offences of Exploiting a child or minor for pornography, the courts having jurisdiction thereof issued 27 judgments declaring the accused guilty and 2 judgments acquitting the accused; for the criminal offence of Introducing a child to pornography, the courts having jurisdiction thereof pronounced 1 judgment declaring the accused guilty, while there were no judgments acquitting the accused.

2023 - During 2023, the courts having jurisdiction thereof issued 14 judgements in which 21 accused persons were found guilty and 3 judgements acquitting 3 accused persons for the criminal offences of "Trafficking in human beings", "Organised trafficking in human beings" and "International trafficking in human beings". For the criminal offences of "Inducing prostitution" and "Inducing a child into prostitution", the courts having jurisdiction thereof issued 5 judgements in which 5 accused persons were declared guilty and 3 judgements in which 3 accused persons were acquitted. For the criminal offences of "Exploiting a child or minor for pornography", "Exploiting a child for pornography" and "Using a computer network or communication with other technical means to commit the criminal offence of sexual abuse or child exploitation", the courts having jurisdiction thereof issued 30 judgements in which 30 accused persons were declared guilty and 6 judgements acquitting 6 accused persons.

- Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina verdicts. Two (2) verdicts, one related to labour exploitation and the other to sexual exploitation, in the first verdict the victims are adults, in the second verdict - minors, types and duration of sentences:
 - a compound punishment of imprisonment for a term of 12 years, the sentence has not been executed, the extradition procedure of the convicted person from the Republic of France is ongoing;
 - a compound punishment of imprisonment for a term of 12 years, the sentence has not been executed, the person is serving a prison sentence from 14 December 2023;

- a compound punishment of imprisonment for a term of 5 years, the sentence has not been executed, the person is serving a prison sentence from 1 February 2024, the fine of KM 10,000.00 was not executed, the person did not pay the fine;
- compound punishment of imprisonment for a term of 11 years, the sentence has not been executed, the person is serving a prison sentence from 27/08/2024;

A compound punishment of imprisonment for a term of 10 years, the sentence has not been executed, the person is serving a prison sentence from 27/08/2024;

Verdict of the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the victim was a minor, sentence to 10 and 11 years in prison, sexual exploitation, 2024;

Number of convictions for trafficking in human beings - 1 (labour exploitation/forced begging, victims are children, sentence to 5 years in prison, effectively executed) - of the Brčko District of BiH.

➤ Number of judgments in cases of trafficking in human beings that resulted in confiscation of property.

One (1) judgment, property benefit obtained by committing a criminal offence was confiscated from two persons - money in the amount of EUR 389,888,092 each, which property benefit the persons are obliged to pay jointly.

➤ Number of convictions of legal entities for trafficking in human beings.

We have had no cases of convictions of legal entities in connection with the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina.