

Committee of the Parties
to the Council of Europe Convention
on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings



CP(2024)04

**Report submitted by the authorities
of Bosnia and Herzegovina
on measures taken to comply with
Committee of the Parties Recommendation
CP/Rec(2022)02 on the implementation
of the Council of Europe Convention
on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings**

Third evaluation round

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The Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention"), acting in accordance with Article 38 (7) of the Convention; Bearing in mind the goals of the Convention to prevent and combat human trafficking, while guaranteeing gender equality, protecting the human rights of victims of trafficking, designing a comprehensive framework for the protection and assistance of victims and witnesses, ensuring effective investigation and prosecution of criminal offenses related to human trafficking, and promoting international cooperation;

Taking into account the provisions of Article 36 (1) of the Convention, which refer to the role of the Group of Experts for Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) in monitoring the implementation of the Convention;

Bearing in mind the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of the Parties; Bearing in mind the instrument of ratification deposited by Bosnia and Herzegovina on January 11, 2008;

Recalling Recommendation CP (2017) 27 of the Committee of the Parties on the implementation of the Convention of the Council of Europe on action against trafficking in human beings by Bosnia and Herzegovina and the report of the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the measures taken in accordance with this recommendation, submitted on October 8, 2018;

Having reviewed the third report on the implementation of the Convention by Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was adopted by GRETA at its 43rd meeting (March 28 - April 1, 2022); Bearing in mind the focus of the third evaluation round of the Convention on access to justice and effective remedies for victims of human trafficking;

Considering the conclusions and proposals contained in the Annex and the third report of GRETA on topics related to the third evaluation round and topics specific to Bosnia and Herzegovina;

Welcoming the measures taken and the progress achieved by the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the implementation of the Convention, and in particular:

- further development of the legislative framework relevant to action against human trafficking (THB), including changes to the definition of THB and the inclusion of the principle of impunity in the Criminal Code of the Republic of Srpska;
- adoption of the Strategy for the fight against human trafficking for the period 2020-2023 and accompanying action plans at the entity and local level;
- establishment of specialized THB units within the Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the State Agency for Investigation and Protection, as well as a network of prosecutors and investigators specialized in dealing with THB cases;
- steps taken to ensure child-friendly procedures for access to justice and remedies;
- establishing a comprehensive and coherent statistical system on victims of THB;
- participation in international cooperation in the field of combating human trafficking, including the establishment of joint investigative teams.

A. Recommends that the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina take measures to address the following issues for urgent action identified in the GRETA report:

1. Take further steps to facilitate and ensure access to justice for victims of THB, in particular by ensuring that:
 - legal assistance is systematically provided as soon as there are reasonable grounds for believing that a person is a victim of human trafficking;

The Judicial Guidelines for the Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking adopted by the HJPC in 2023, among other things, one of the Guidelines refers to the property claims of victims of human trafficking and includes free legal aid. Based on the guidelines, all chief prosecutors issued binding instructions to prosecutors to work on granting free legal aid and a representative to the victim upon first contact with a potential victim of human trafficking. In the BiH Prosecutor's Office, we have already had cases where we applied the guidelines and mandatory instruction of the GT. When informing about the event and the victim, it was immediately ordered to explain to him and assign a proxy, and we used the services of the association *Vaša prava BiH*.

When placing victims and/or potential victims of human trafficking in safe houses run by non-governmental organizations that have a signed agreement with the Ministry of Security of BiH on housing and providing all services to victims and/or potential victims of human trafficking, a referral mechanism is activated and all relevant institutions and organizations responsible for preventing human trafficking, as well as relevant institutions and organizations that provide assistance to victims of human trafficking. When it comes to legal assistance, the associations "*Vaša prava BiH*" (*English "Your rights" BiH*) and the association „Centar ženskih prava“ (*English "Women's Rights Center"*) are notified, which provide free legal assistance to the authorities who manage the legal aid centers, but they lack the specialization and capacity to provide sufficient support and help victims of human trafficking. For this reason, non-governmental organizations in most cases provide free legal aid, with the fact that the authorities have not paid funds to non-governmental organizations, regardless of the existence of a contract on the payment of funds.

There are three associations in BiH that provide legal assistance to victims of human trafficking from the moment they are identified, and monitor and provide legal assistance throughout the entire procedure.

A network of specialized lawyers, institutes/centers for free legal aid and non-governmental organizations that provide legal aid and free legal advising to victims of human trafficking has been established and consists of 13 members (9 institutes/centers and 4 specialized non-governmental organizations). By the end of 2023, the memorandum was signed by 6 members. Subsequently, two more members joined the network (the Office for Providing Free Legal Aid at the Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Cantonal Institute for Free Legal Aid of Canton Ten). Fifteen providers of legal aid and free legal assistance who participated in the introductory meeting were also introduced to the indicators of human trafficking, the victim identification process and the national referral mechanism of victim assistance services.

- prosecutors inform victims of THB of their right to legal representation and that such representation be provided early in the criminal proceedings. In this respect, prosecutors and police should routinely inform shelters where victims are accommodated and legal guardians assigned to child victims that criminal proceedings have been initiated;

The Judicial Guidelines for the Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking were adopted by the HJPC in 2023. Among other things, one of the guidelines refers to the property claims of victims of human trafficking and includes free legal aid. Based on the guidelines, all Chief Prosecutors issued binding instructions to prosecutors to work on granting free legal aid and a representative to the victim at the first contact with a potential victim of human trafficking. In the BiH Prosecutor's Office, we have already had cases where we applied the guidelines and mandatory instruction of the GT. When informing about the event and the victim, it was immediately ordered to explain and assign a proxy, and we used the services of *Your Rights BiH*.

Potential and identified victims have been notified by all competent authorities involved in the investigation process

- legal aid centers play a greater role in providing free legal aid to victims of human trafficking. In this regard, the criteria for receiving free legal aid from legal aid centers should be harmonized throughout the country;

The website of the Prosecutor's Office of BiH provides information on free legal aid, and law enforcement services make contact with Your Rights BiH, the Center for Women's Rights and the Office for Free Legal Aid at the Ministry of Justice of BiH.

One of the goals of the implementation of the USAID project in 2022 is precisely to provide legal support to victims of human trafficking in all stages of proceedings, administrative and judicial, already at the first direct contact of the potential victim with the competent police agencies. In this connection, a series of meetings and visits were held with representatives of safe houses and members of monitoring teams. They were informed about the activities of the project and the goals of the projects being implemented, and the importance of legal support to potential victims was pointed out already at the first direct contact of the victim with the prosecution authorities. In this regard, it was agreed and promised that immediately after placement in a safe house, i.e. after identification of the victim, providers of free legal assistance will be called in order to enable legal counseling of the victim - the injured party.

- ensure adequate funding for non-governmental organizations and legal aid centers that provide free legal aid to victims of human trafficking;

USAID/INSPIRE funds non-governmental organizations that provide free legal aid. In 2020, the Ministry of Security and the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina signed an agreement on pooling funds for victims of human trafficking. When planning its budget, the BiH Ministry of Security also plans funds for housing and assistance to victims of human trafficking. Every year, the ministry publishes a public call for non-governmental organizations that manage shelters for victims of human trafficking. The funds planned for that purpose amounted to 130,000.00 BAM.

- authorities and bar associations encourage the training and specialization of lawyers to provide legal assistance to victims of human trafficking (paragraph 53);

Several workshops were held by CEST FBIH and CEST RS during 2023 and 2024, and IOM BIH and the Ministry of Justice of BiH held trainings for lawyers and providers of free legal aid in relation to the topic of victim representation.

3. Make further efforts to ensure effective access to compensation for victims of THB, in particular by ensuring that:

- victims of human trafficking are systematically informed about their right to seek compensation in criminal and civil proceedings and the procedure to be followed, and to be provided with effective legal assistance from an early stage of the proceedings in order to realize this right;

The High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina issued guidelines for all chief prosecutors of all prosecutor's offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina when it comes to property claims of victims of human trafficking. In order to improve the existing practice in relation to the

property claims of victims of human trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina, it is necessary to raise the awareness of all participants in criminal proceedings, and the guidelines are one of the tools that should contribute to solving the property claims of victims of human trafficking. The guidelines provide specific recommendations aimed at improving the practice of adjudicating property claims in cases of human trafficking, but at the same time indicate the legal norms that should be applied by courts and prosecutors' offices in relation to the injured and the rights of the injured, including the right to compensation for damages as a result of the committed criminal act.

In order to implement the guidelines adopted by the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council, all chief prosecutors in Bosnia and Herzegovina issued mandatory instructions on the actions of prosecutors in relation to property claims of victims of human trafficking.

The guidelines, Mandatory instructions of the chief prosecutors, were published on the website of the Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

- collecting evidence of harm suffered by the victim, including financial gain from the exploitation of the victim or loss suffered by the victim, forms part of a criminal investigation in order to support a claim for compensation in court;

Guidelines, Mandatory instructions of the chief prosecutors, conducting an expert examination of the consequences for the victim as a basis for the total sum of financial damages.

During the investigation, the prosecutor issues an order for the victim's expert opinion by an expert neuropsychiatrist to determine compensation for non-material damage, and in case of need, an economic expert opinion is also carried out.

- victims receive compensation from offenders as part of criminal proceedings and requiring courts to state, where applicable, why compensation was not considered/awarded;

Guidelines, Mandatory instructions of the chief prosecutors, conducting an expert examination of the consequences for the victim as a basis for the total sum of financial damages.

As part of the decision on the main case, the court makes a decision on the property legal claim for damages. In the aforementioned judgment or decision, the court shall state the reasons why the property claim was not granted (in that case, the victim is referred to civil proceedings).

- make full use of asset seizure and confiscation laws, as well as international cooperation, to ensure compensation for victims of THB, and ensure that recoverable property seized in criminal proceedings is returned to the victim as soon as possible;

It is regulated by the law on criminal procedure and the special law on illegally acquired property.

- support for victims to effectively execute compensation orders, including ensuring access to free legal aid;

According to the verdict, the bailiff acts if the victim initiates a proposal for enforcement, and free legal assistance from the above-mentioned organizations is included in everything.

- inclusion of the topic of compensation in regular curricula for the training of lawyers, prosecutors and judges;

- establishing, without further delay, a state compensation program available to victims of THB, regardless of their nationality and immigration status (paragraph 77);

The Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina issued a Decision on the formation of a working group for the drafting of the Draft Law on the establishment of a fund for the compensation of victims of criminal acts of human trafficking, and the working group was operational and a total of 7 meetings were held, during which the following were discussed: international legal sources related to the issue compensation for victims of criminal acts of human trafficking, comparative reviews of legal solutions in neighboring countries, research on court practice in prosecuting criminal acts of human trafficking 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 acts human trafficking, issues of establishing funds at the entity levels and Brčko District of BiH and other issues necessary for the work of the working group.

In connection with the above-mentioned discussed issues, at all meetings of the working group, the different views of its members came to the fore regarding the following: Interpretation of the above-mentioned Strategy and Action Plan in terms of the need to adopt a single law that would establish a single fund for compensation of victims of criminal offenses of human trafficking throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina (taking into account the judgments of all courts in Bosnia and Herzegovina) or the adoption of 4 laws and the establishment of funds at four levels of government (level of BiH, Republika Srpska, Federation of BiH and Brčko District of BiH), in which case this working group drafted a law related only to the judgments of the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina 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 project "Strengthening action against human trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina", whose representatives attended the meetings of the working group and on that occasion presented the analysis of international documents entitled "Assessment of the situation with the aim of establishing a compensation scheme for victims of human trafficking", and they also obtained and presented relevant data on submitted property-law claims in court proceedings in BiH, from the databases of the OSCE and TRIAL organizations. However, in spite of all the professional activities and the efforts and efforts made by the Ministry of Justice of BiH, 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 of victims of criminal acts of human trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the same was not achieved due to absolutely divided official positions of the institutions whose representatives were members of the working group.

3. Take measures to strengthen the criminal justice response to THB, including ensuring that:

- criminal offenses of human trafficking be proactively and quickly investigated, regardless of whether the reported offense is reported or not, using all possible evidence, including evidence collected through special investigative measures, financial evidence, documents and digital evidence, in order to reduce relying on the testimony of victims or witnesses;

Police officers, together with competent prosecutors' offices, conduct investigations and collect evidence in accordance with existing legislation. Prosecutors' offices during investigations use all

possible investigative methods to gather evidence and do not rely only on the victim's testimony (conducting special investigative actions, searches, taking down video surveillance, etc.).

As part of the criminal case, police officers of the Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina documented the criminal offenses of " International human trafficking from Article 186 of the Criminal Code of BiH in connection with Article 29 of the Criminal Code of BiH, and all in connection with Article 53. CCBiH, committed to the detriment of minors from the migrant population, and the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina on 06.03.2024. year, after the main trial, issued and publicly announced the verdict in the case of Amanullah Ishakil and others, by which the defendants Amanullah Ishakil and Qais Khan were found guilty of having committed, by the actions described in the sentence:

- the accused Qais Khan - by the actions described under point 1 of the sentence of the verdict, the criminal offense of human smuggling from Article 189, paragraph 4, in connection with paragraph 1 of the Criminal Code of BiH and in connection with article 26 of the Criminal Code of BiH, and by the actions described under point 2 of the sentence Verdicts, the criminal offense of international human trafficking from Article 186, paragraph 2, in connection with paragraph 1 of the Criminal Code of BiH and in connection with Article 29 of the Criminal Code of BiH, and all in connection with Article 53 of the Criminal Code of BiH;
- the accused Amanullah Ishakil – by the actions described under point 2 of the sentence of the verdict, the criminal offense of international human trafficking from Article 186, paragraph 2, in connection with paragraph 1 of the Criminal Code of BiH, and all in connection with Article 29 of the Criminal Code of BiH.

The Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina sentenced the accused Qais Khan to a single prison sentence of 11 (eleven) years, and to the accused Amanullah Ishakil to a prison sentence of 10 (ten) years.

In the course of the criminal case, a number of official measures and actions were taken with the aim of gathering evidence, including analyzes of forensic reports, analysis of written records kept by the suspects (hawala system), through which it was evident that the suspects obtained large amounts of illegal property benefits.

- criminal offenses of human trafficking are prosecuted as such, and not as minor offences, whenever the circumstances of the case allow, and lead to effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions for those convicted. The plea agreement procedure should be used only exceptionally in cases of human trafficking, with appropriate safeguards, where the reduction of the sentence is clearly outweighed by the advantages offered by the plea agreement (these advantages are stated in the court decision approving the agreement) and the agreement should not in any manner be detrimental to the rights of victims, including their access to compensation;
- strengthening efforts to investigate, prosecute and secure convictions in cases of human trafficking for labor exploitation, with the involvement of labor inspectors and tax inspectors;

There is cooperation with labor inspectors who help in the investigation of the mentioned criminal acts, and labor inspections are included in the referral mechanism, i.e. coordination teams for the fight against human trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

- intensifying efforts to identify, seize and confiscate criminal assets generated by human trafficking offenses (paragraph 100);

4. Strengthening efforts to prevent child trafficking, including:

- sensitization and training of child protection experts and social workers on child trafficking, and strengthening of their resources throughout the country;

As part of the "Direct" project, the association "Women from Una" contributes to the fulfillment of the objectives of the Strategy for Combating Human Trafficking of the Una-Sana Canton (USK), which refers to education/training on human trafficking with a special focus on children. As part of the mentioned project, 3 training sessions were held for representatives of institutions and institutions (police, centers for social work, centers for mental health, educational and social institutions, educational and health institutions) that provide services to victims and/or potential victims of human trafficking. Also, within this project, 3 specialized trainings were held for representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs).

- raising awareness of the risks of human trafficking, including recruitment and abuse via the Internet/social networks, and trade for sexual exploitation abroad;

The Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina plans funds in the amount of 10,000.00 KM within its budget for the celebration of the European Day against Human Trafficking on October 18. To mark this day in 2024, the topic of raising public awareness about human trafficking through the Internet and technology is planned.

Association Žene sa Une ("Women from Una") within the project "Direkt" prepared a strategy for advocacy and raising awareness about human trafficking at the local level (USK). As part of the strategy, 3 radio jingles were developed and distributed, which were broadcast on Radio Unsko Sana Canton, and which were created to address the target groups, namely: a) Victims and potential victims of human trafficking; b) Professionals/victim service providers and c) The general population.

As part of its regular activities, the Police of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina raises awareness among citizens regarding the area of human trafficking. Also, by marking Safe Internet Day, the World and European Day of Combating Human Trafficking, awareness is raised about human trafficking, its danger and all forms of exploitation.

- development of programs for the rehabilitation of street children, offering them and their families alternative opportunities such as professional training, opportunities employment, placement in alternative care, based on the best interests of the child;
- ensuring adequate financial support for day centers for street children in order to guarantee the sustainability of their activities;

When it comes to the activities of the "Day Center", which operates in the area of the Sarajevo Canton within the KJU "Education Center", the experiences of the Sarajevo Cantonal Center for Social Work are not positive. Namely, a small number of children accept participation in the activities realized by the "day center", programs aimed at working with this category of children have not been developed

nor are they adapted to the needs of this population of children. There is not enough housing capacity for children whom we estimate need to be removed from their families and provide alternative housing, and the competent entities have not and are not doing anything to provide sufficient capacity as well as the necessary preconditions for housing children suspected of being involved in human trafficking, a behavioral disorder was also identified.

- increasing accommodation capacities to meet the needs of urgent protection of children at risk of exploitation;
- ensuring sufficient human, technical and financial resources to increase capacity and improve conditions in government reception centers to accommodate all child migrants and asylum seekers (paragraph 166);

In accordance with the regulations on internal organization and job systematization, the issue has been resolved. **(To be specified???)**

5. Take additional steps to prevent and combat human trafficking for labor exploitation, in particular by ensuring that:

- labor inspectors have sufficient staff and resources to be able to play a key role in the prevention and identification of THB for labor exploitation;
- labor inspectors, police officers and other relevant actors increase their work in the field to identify victims of human trafficking for labor exploitation, with a special focus on sectors at risk, such as construction and hospitality

Labor inspectors are included in the referral mechanism and cooperate with all other actors dealing with the fight against human trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The protocol on cooperation between the police and labor inspectorates in the detection and investigation of human trafficking for the purpose of labor exploitation and the referral of victims of human trafficking for the purpose of labor exploitation in the entity/district/canton was drawn up as part of the Project (which 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 human trafficking within their jurisdiction in criminal and misdemeanor proceedings, as well as the timely protection of victims of human trafficking for the purpose of labor exploitation.

The draft protocol was presented to relevant experts on July 25 and 26, 2023, at a workshop on the development of local protocols for the prevention, detection and investigation of human trafficking for the purpose of labor exploitation, organized in Konjic for twenty-five experts, members of anti-trafficking teams. to people from all administrative levels of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In accordance with the proposals and discussion from this workshop, the presented protocol was finalized and sent to the competent institutions in the country (ministries of interior affairs 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 the 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 develop and adopt a detailed action plan for the actions of the police and labor inspection in cases of human trafficking for the purpose of labor exploitation, which will define

Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), including and a list of indicators of human trafficking for the purpose of labor exploitation, with the aim of improving the treatment on the ground in the mentioned cases.

Also, during December 2023, the project started developing a package of resource materials on the prevention, detection and investigation of cases of human trafficking for the purpose of labor exploitation. The package is aimed at strengthening the capacity, through training, of labor inspectors, investigators, employment agencies, and trade unions in the fight against human trafficking for the purpose of labor exploitation and promoting the realization of victims' rights in BiH.

- strengthening cooperation between police officers, labor inspectors, financial police, tax authorities, trade unions and other actors of civil society, with the aim of identifying victims of THB for labor exploitation and collecting evidence necessary for successful prosecution of those cases (paragraph 174);

During 2023, the Strike Group was expanded by the appointment of a new member, a representative of the Service for Affairs with Foreigners, and it was initiated that the work of the Strike Group be monitored by the labor inspectors of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brčko District of BiH as observers. Labor inspectors are also members of coordination teams for the fight against human trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

6. Strengthening the identification of victims of THB, in particular:

- increasing efforts to proactively identify victims of trafficking, especially trafficking for labor exploitation;

The Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the help of the International Organization for Migration IOM established a mobile application/Indicators for the identification of victims of human trafficking. The application was created with the aim of improving the process of identifying (potential) victims of human trafficking, providing better help and support to (potential) victims, and more efficiently prosecuting the perpetrators of this crime.

The indicators are intended for professionals in competent institutions and authorized organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina who in their work directly come into contact with (potential) victims of this criminal act, and may be able to spot situations and signs of human trafficking.

Indicators are defined for four (4) forms of human trafficking identified as currently the most present in Bosnia and Herzegovina:

1. human trafficking for the purpose of forced labor;
2. human trafficking for the purpose of forced begging and/or committing criminal acts;
3. human trafficking for the purpose of forced marriage; and
4. human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

All police agencies in BiH, in accordance with their powers, take all measures and actions with the aim of better identification of victims of human trafficking. Significant cooperation was achieved with all institutions that can help in the identification of victims of human trafficking. Coordination of certain activities takes place through coordination/monitoring teams. The mobile team that operates at the Center for Social Work and that works directly to detect child victims of human trafficking (regardless of whether they are children of BiH citizens, migrants or asylum seekers) undergoes

regular education, training, and continuously works to acquire knowledge and skills to conduct interviews adapted to the culture, age and gender of children.

- paying increased attention to detecting victims of trafficking among migrants and asylum seekers, providing training and issuing clear operational instructions for frontline professionals to identify and respond to cases of trafficking and to conduct gender and culturally appropriate interviews with migrants and asylum seekers, as well as engaging sufficient the number of trained translators and cultural mediators for more effective interaction with migrants and asylum seekers (paragraph 188);

IOM BiH organized a workshop entitled "Proactive identification of victims of human trafficking in mixed migration flows - focus on staff of outreach teams in BiH" from 4-5 July 2022 in Jahorina. This workshop was organized in cooperation with the Outreach Coordinator of the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina (responsible for coordinating support for migrants residing outside the TRC) and the Office of the State Coordinator for CT. The aim of the workshop was to train the staff of the field teams regarding the most important elements of CT through the study of real-life cases, the exchange of experiences from the field and practical knowledge. Additionally, IOM BiH organized two two-day workshops entitled "Proactive identification of victims of human trafficking in mixed migration flows - focus on staff employed in the Lipa temporary reception center" on February 15 and 17, 2022, and on February 16 and 18, 2022, in Bihać. The total number of trained service providers working in PPC Lipa in Una-Sana Canton is 83 (41 M and 42 F). Topics covered by the training included existing trends in human trafficking in BiH, elements of human trafficking, indicators for proactive identification, a victim-oriented approach and psychosocial support for (potential) victims of human trafficking, as well as existing national recommendations for PPC. IOM, in cooperation with the Office of the State Coordinator for CT, invested significant efforts in developing innovative digital tools for the unified collection of statistical data on human trafficking cases and provided important IT tools to facilitate the overall coordination of the complex national referral mechanism in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The whole process was finalized with the official launch of the tool/mobile application for screening/vulnerability assessment of P/ŽT in order to improve their identification, in July 2022 in Sarajevo as part of the press conference on the occasion of the closing of the INL project implemented by IOM BiH.

Police officers in Bosnia and Herzegovina continuously participate in various types of professional training, workshops, trainings and other educational events on the topic of human trafficking organized by international organizations (IOM, OSCE, etc.) persons from the migrant population and improving and developing the very techniques of conducting interviews with persons from the migrant population, especially with sensitive groups (children, women, elderly persons, etc.);

7. Improving the provision of assistance to victims of THB, in particular:

- ensuring adequate funding and further development of cooperation and coordination with non-governmental organizations that provide accommodation and support to victims of THB;

In 2020, the Ministry of Security and the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina signed an agreement on pooling funds for victims of human trafficking. When planning its budget, the BiH Ministry of Security also plans funds for housing and assistance to victims of human trafficking. Every year, the Ministry publishes a Public Call for non-governmental organizations that manage shelters for victims of human trafficking. The funds planned for that purpose amounted to 130,000.00 KM. In the budget of the institutions and international obligations of BiH for the year 2024, funds for the purpose of accommodation and assistance to victims of human trafficking amount to 210,000.00 KM, which represents a significant increase.

- development of programs for long-term support and integration of victims of THB (paragraph 201);

Special programs for the reintegration of victims of human trafficking have not been developed at the local, cantonal and entity level. They are established at the level of institutions, which does not provide the possibility of multi-sector program activities in the processes of reintegration of victims and leaves room for free assessment of institutions regarding their undertaking of obligations in the process of reintegration of victims of human trafficking.

8. Improving the identification and assistance of child victims of trafficking, in particular by ensuring that:

- relevant actors take a proactive approach and increase their work on the ground to identify child victims of THB, including constant attention to children in street situations and active involvement, where necessary, of qualified persons from the Roma community

Proactive work and increased work in the field to identify child victims of human trafficking is one of the priorities of the Coordination Team for the fight against human trafficking of the USK, which is reflected in the signed Protocol for prevention and treatment in cases of trafficking and other forms of exploitation in the USK, and the signatories are: cities and municipalities from the area of USK (Bihać, Cazin, Bosanska Krupa, Sanski Most, Ključ, Bosanski Petrovac, Bužim and Velika Kladuša); Ministry of Internal Affairs of the USK; Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Policy of USK; Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports of USK; Coordination team for the fight against human trafficking of the USK; Cantonal Administration for Inspection Affairs of USK; USK Prosecutor's Office; Cantonal Hospital "Dr. Irfan Ljubijankić" and the association "Women from Una" Bihać.

The Protocol for prevention and treatment in cases of begging and other forms of exploitation in the area of the city of Bihać was also signed, which includes, among other things, the formation of the Mobile Identification Team (MIT), which has been established and formalized and is made up of representatives of the Center for Social Work, police and the "Women from Una" association.

Through the synergy of the regional project "Improving the identification and resilience of (potential) victims of human trafficking in the Western Balkans", which World Vision in Bosnia and Herzegovina implements with the support of *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH* and the project "Strengthening national and local capacity in the fight against human trafficking in BiH", which is implemented by World Vision BiH, in partnership with the organization "Land of Children in BiH", and with the support of the US State Secretariat, in the last three years:

8 mobile identification teams were established (Sarajevo, Tuzla, Mostar, Visoko, Živinice, Banja Luka, Bjeljina and Bihać). Three MITs, in Tuzla, Mostar and Bihać, became part of the local referral mechanism for the prevention and handling of cases of begging and other forms of exploitation of children. Namely, in the local Protocols that were signed in these cities, the city administrations undertook to form local MITs and to finance their work. In this upcoming period.

In order to facilitate and standardize the work of existing MITs and to help those local communities that intend to form these MITs, a Guide for the establishment and operation of MITs was prepared, which consists of a set of documents:

- the schedule of the Decision on the formation of the MIT (which was used by the city administrations of Bihać and Tuzla when they made their Decisions),
- of MIT's work,

- form for urgent assessment of the condition and needs of a minor potential victim of human trafficking,
 - form for urgent assessment of the condition and needs of an adult victim of human trafficking,
 - MIT monthly reporting form (this is very important because it harmonizes the process of collecting and processing data and information),
 - indicators (for 5 types of exploitation),
 - of MIT's procedures (schema).
- further training of police, prosecutors, NGOs, social work centers and child experts and guidelines for identifying child victims of THB, based on an agreed understanding of the concepts of trafficking for forced begging, forced criminality and early, child or forced marriage;

Trainings are organized continuously, and in the past period, a large part of trainings were held on the mentioned topics.

- day care centers for children and centers for social work are adequately funded and social workers are adequately equipped with resources for effective action as temporary legal guardians;

As part of the work of the "Women from Una" association, the Day Center for Children at Risk (DC) also operates. The work of the DC is unfortunately not supported by government institutions, but the DC works thanks to the "Women from Una" association, which finds financial support from donors through project activities that are implemented in the DC.

- child victims of THB across the country have appropriate accommodation, in particular by establishing specialized safe houses for children in all regions of the country (paragraph 213).

For years, the center has continuously faced the problem of housing children who are suspected of being potential victims of human trafficking. Due to the lack of a systemic solution (the issue of financing safe houses, as well as other issues of importance for the placement and rehabilitation of children, has not been systematically resolved), the center is continuously faced with the problems of placing children, requests to move children from a safe house to a safe house, as well as with due to the lack of professional and other capacities of the safe house to meet all the needs of children, needs related to delays in children's development.