



**MULTI-DONOR TRUST FUND FOR
UN ACTION AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT¹**

INTERIM NARRATIVE REPORT COVER PAGE

Participating UN Organization(s): UN Women, UNDP and UNFPA	Project² Title: Seeking Care, Support and Justice for Survivors of Conflict Related Sexual Violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina (CRSV BiH – UN Action II)
Focal Point of Participating UN Organization(s): Name: Azra Sehic - <i>Joint Programme Coordinator</i> Address: UN Building, Zmaja od Bosne bb, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina Telephone: 00387 33 293 580 Email: sehic@unfpa.org	Report Number: 1 (interim) Project Location(s): Bosnia and Herzegovina
UN Action pillar of activity: <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy <input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support to UN system at country level	Reporting Period: March 2018 – December 2018
Project Budget: USD 250,000	

List Implementing Partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participating UN Organization(s): UNDP, UN Women, UNFPA • Other International Organizations • National (government, private, NGOs & others) <p><i>All agencies implemented their activities directly, in cooperation with relevant governmental and nongovernmental organizations.</i></p>	Project Coverage/Scope: UN Women: Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brcko District UNDP: Bosnia and Herzegovina UNFPA: Bosnia and Herzegovina
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Project Duration/Closed Project:

¹ Only relevant if project is more than one fiscal year (i.e. 1 January - 31 December)

² The term “project” is used for projects, programmes and joint programmes

- Provide the project duration.
1 March 2018 – 30 June 2019 (no cost extension from 31 March – 2019 received)
- Report on budget revisions and extensions and provide the new dates.
While there were no budget revisions, the project received a no-cost extension. With the extension the project implementing period is moved from 31 March to 30 June.
- Indicate if the project has been operationally closed during the reporting period.
The project is still on-going, hence there were no closures in the reporting period.

Report Formatting Instructions

- Do not put the narrative text into boxes and do not incorporate boxes into the narrative report.
- Attach charts, graphs, etc. as annexes to the report and clearly reference using footnotes
- Number all sections and paragraphs as indicated below
- Format the entire document using 12 point Times New Roman & do not use colours

INTERIM NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

I. Purpose

- Provide the main outcomes and outputs of the project

Output 1. Economic empowerment programs for CRSV survivors in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Brcko District developed (UN Women)

Output 2: Capacities for more sensitive and tailored free legal aid provision to CRSV survivors enhanced (UNDP)

Output 3: Knowledge on children born of war-time rape in BiH enhanced and streamlined into capacity building for comprehensive psychosocial support and stigma prevention (JPC/UNDP, UNFPA)

Output 4: Smooth coordination, advocacy and communication is ensured within the Joint Programme on CRSV (JPC/UNFPA)

See Annex 1 for the details of the progress and the activities.

- Explain how the project relates to the Strategic Framework of UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict.

The current proposal falls under UN Action's Strategic Framework pillar 1: Country Level Action - support joint strategy development and programming by UN Country Teams. The proposal, in fact, contributes to fund one of the four pillars of the UN Joint Programme initiated in 2014 by IOM, UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women in BiH with the aim of addressing the unresolved legacy of CRSV in the country. The Joint Programme represents the resolve of the entire BiH UN Country Team to develop a comprehensive response to the needs of CRSV survivors, engaging multiple UN Organizations and thus benefitting from their diverse mandates, expertise and experience.

- Indicate the main implementing partners, their roles and responsibilities, and their interaction with the Participating UN Organizations

All activities in the reporting period were carried out directly by the implementing UN agencies and their consultants (where needed).

II. Resources

Financial Resources:

- Provide information on other funding resources available to the project, if applicable.

Under a wider Joint programme the UK Government is providing funds that cover the components of legislation (IOM) and health care (including mental health care, UNFPA), as well as contributing to joint coordination activities and management of knowledge generated throughout the years of implementation. This adds to overall implementation of the activities funded by UN Action, in a way that it enables creating the right attitudes during the service provision tailored to CRSV survivors, and all together are alleviating institutional stigma surrounding this target group.

- Provide details on any budget revisions approved by the appropriate decision-making body, if applicable.
Nothing to report/Not applicable.

III. Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements

- Summarize the implementation mechanisms primarily utilized and how they are adapted to achieve maximum impact given the operating context.

The implementation of the project activities during the reporting period was achieved through:

- a) identification of governmental and non-governmental capacities to take on the knowledge and skills related to legal aid for CRSV survivors and the economic empowerment. This aimed at creating the preconditions in BD and FBiH (where the economic empowerment is recognized as a right of survivors in the existing legislation);
- b) capacity building of legal aid providers (as initiated in previous phases of the Joint Programme) and in line with the methodology previously used for the health and psychological support sectors (based on the global Essential Services package);
- c) consultations with the relevant associations and institutions about methodology serving to define a framework research on the persons conceived in war-time rape.
- d) continuation of the coordination platforms with governmental and civil society stakeholders ensuring regular feedback from partners and beneficiaries.

- Provide details on the monitoring system(s) that are being used and how you identify and incorporate lessons learned into the ongoing project.

The CRSV Join Programme created two advisory bodies that ensure monitoring and generation of lessons learned, as well as ensure broader consensus on the activities. These bodies are the Joint Programme Steering Committee (JPSC) and the Civil Society Organizations Group (CSOs Group). JPSC gathers government representatives from almost all administrative levels (state, entities, Brcko District) and different sectors (health, social, justice, human rights, gender, etc.) while the CSO Group gathers organizations representing CRSV Survivors and other civilian victims of war, both utilized as a monitoring tool and the platform for feedback on the Programme's implementation. In the reporting

period both bodies met 2 times, while through the Joint Programme Coordinator a direct and constant communication, consultation and feedback is provided.

- Report on any assessments, evaluations, and/or studies undertaken.

A full field assessment and follow-up monitoring of the economic empowerment schemes previously granted through joint UNDP/UN Women support to CRSV associations was conducted by UN Women, followed by a full impact assessment of developed schemes on the lives of survivors and family members. The assessments emphasized good practices and lessons learned which have been replicated in the continued work with the government of FBiH and Brcko District in creating particular economic empowerment programmes for CRSV survivors.

JP has conducted initial consultations in order to establish ToR for the research on the persons conceived in war-time rape. The research will in line with such ToR be carried out in the next reporting period.

IV. Results

- a) Provide an assessment of the extent to which the project component is progressing in relation to the outcomes and outputs expected for the reporting period.

In the reporting period the UNDP component of the project has been brought close to an end (**see Annex 1 for details per component**) while other components achieved preparation for the implementation of activities as envisaged by the project and are expected to be finalized in the next reporting period.

- b) Describe main activities undertaken and achievements.

UN Women

In the reporting period, UN Women recruited Project Coordinator in order to implement the remaining activities within the project. Later in the year, as per Activity 1, economic and legal advisor (consultants) were recruited to initiate negotiations and analyses of government-led economic programs accessible to CRSV survivors. The analysis showed multiple entry-points for particular economic empowerment programs in institutions such as the Federal Fund for Professional Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities. The analysis also demonstrated that there are no legal obstacles in survivors' access to these rights so a follow-up plan of training, ToT and capacity development measures has been developed (Activity 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6) which will follow in the next calendar year.

As an additional support to the 3 economic empowerment schemes, participation of CRSV survivors at the Diplomatic Winter Bazaar was supported and all the income thus accumulated was directed toward survivors' businesses.

UNDP

Sustainable support through Free Legal Aid (FLA) for CRSV survivors while accessing justice was institutionalized in 2018, through developments of trainings on this subject, and their delivery to the FLA service providers across the country. Namely, two resource packages (1 integrated for BiH, FBiH and BD and one for RS) including guidelines, action plans and protocols on referrals for justice sector institutions on free legal aid providers have been *reviewed, restructured and edited*.

Two sets of training materials (BiH/BD, FBiH and RS) including Training of Trainers module for sensitive provision of Free Legal Aid services to GBV/CRSV survivors have been restructured and edited. Both Resource Package and Training modules are now in the process of printing along with UNFPA materials to be shared with FLA providers and Ministries of Justice at all levels (state, entities, cantons).

Training of Trainers (basic level) for 14 Free legal aid professionals was delivered in November thus enhancing capacities of 14 FLA agencies to ensure transfer of knowledge to new staff within respective agencies.

UNFPA

In parallel to the initial consultations undertaken with the stakeholder groups and the expert community on the research relating to children conceived of rape, UNFPA directly liaised with ministries of health and faith-based organizations to prepare the grounds for integration of future research conclusions into service delivery processes.

- c) Explain any implementation constraints and the lessons learned from addressing these and knowledge gained in the course of the reporting period.

As indicated with the project proposal, not all components could be implemented throughout the country due to lack of legislation related to CRSV on the state level, as well as to lack of the related law on the level of Republika Srpska. The Law on protection of victims of (war) torture was drafted and adopted in October 2018.

In FBiH the main constraints for implementation was the lack of skills and capacity of relevant institutions and organizations to either identify and direct the survivors to the existing programs of (economic) support, or understand and apply the criteria of the existing economic empowerment programs to the CRSV survivors. This lesson provided the basis for the future of the component's implementation.

- d) Discuss key partnerships and inter-agency collaboration, and their impact on results being reported on.

UN Women cooperated with both GO and NGOs in FBiH and the BD in carrying out the project's activities. The most important partnerships established are therefore:

- On the level of Federation/Cantons: Federal Employment bureau; Federal Fond for professional rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities; Federal ministry of labor and social policy, Federal Ministry of Entrepreneurship; Employment bureau of Brcko district; Government of Brcko District – Department for development. Cooperation with these partners revealed main constraints in application of existing programmes of economic empowerment on the CRSV survivors, as well as identified preconditions for future implementation of activities, that were met in this part of the country.

UN Women also cooperated with the victims's associations in BD and FBiH, and ensured their participation in creating the activities for the next implanting/reporting period.

Through the project UNDP extended their cooperation with the Ministry of Justice (state and entities) and ensured that the resource packages for the legal aid providers become an official, internally adopted guide in work with the CRSV survivors. This further set grounds to link the component with the wider, legislative component of IOM (funded by UK) ensuring that the institutionalization of the knowledge includes also the knowledge on accessing the status and the rights for CRSV survivors in both FBiH and Republika Srpska.

- e) Indicate other highlights and cross cutting issues pertinent to the results being reported on.

Within the wider Joint Programme, stigma is confirmed as a cross-cutting issue. UNFPA has been tasked with alleviating the stigmatisation of CRSV survivors and is funded for this activity in parallel with the UN Action funding by the UK Government. There have been notable synergies achieved across all four

participating agencies (UNDP, UN Women, IOM and UNFPA): Stigma prevention work that targeted health providers was jointly implemented as UNDP provided participants from legal aid service providers; while UN Women identified the need for psycho-social intervention in implementation of economic empowerment programmes. The agencies will continue combining efforts in alleviating stigma through capacity building activities planned in the next reporting period, and promoting the right attitudes of the service providers in their work with the survivors.

V. Future Work Plan

- Provide priority actions planned for the following reporting period to overcome constraints, build on achievements and partnerships, and use the lessons learned during the previous reporting period.

The UN Women component will be addressing the constraints through planned activities to train NGOs, relevant government bodies and individuals on the application to the existing programmes of economic empowerment that can be applied on the CRSV survivors and their associations. This will strengthen the capacity of the providers on the local level to identify, advise and support the survivors in the process of application for the existing schemes in case such intent is raised by the survivors themselves. They will also be informed about the procedures related to status acquisition where such official status is a precondition for participation in these programmes. Legal aid providers, as in UNDP component, will be included in the same trainings and thus allow both outreach and wider, tailored support for survivors in the processes related to the economic empowerment.

The research on the persons conceived in war-time rape is going to be one of the main activities in the coming period. The research raised concerns by the associations of the targeted group as well as by some of the members of JPSC and the CSO Group, that the report that would come out would not bring any benefits or make any major impact. This concern is addressed by careful development of methodology that will be followed through by the planned technical-advisory body which will ensure that the research is conducted in an appropriate manner and full respect of the principles of confidentiality, do no harm and respect (among others).

- Indication of any major adjustments in the strategies, targets or key outcomes and outputs planned in the country project.

There were no major formal adjustments need for the project, but the additional potential in implementing the stigma alleviation through existing activities was identified and carried out. This was in line with the existing strategies and only added to their value with no additional cost.

- Provide the estimated budget required (including any major funding shortfalls).

Estimated budget required for the reporting period remains unchanged from the one stated in the proposal (250 000 USD). There are no expected shortfalls.