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| Seeking Care, Support and Justice for Survivors of Conflict Related Sexual Violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina (CRSV BiH - UN Action II) - UNA037 | |
| UN ACTION MPTF PROJECT ANNUAL REPORT | |
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| Name of Reporting Focal Point | Samid Sarenkapic |
| Title of Reporting Focal Point | Joint Programme Coordinator |
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IMPORTANT NOTE: *If the report at hand, or parts of it are published online, we kindly ask that all references to specific locations in which programmatic activities have been implemented with CRSV survivors are deleted for the purpose of protecting survivors' anonymity and preventing their stigmatization.*

ACRONYMS

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| BD | Brcko District |
| BIH | Bosnia and Herzegovina |
| BPC | Bosnia-Podrinje Canton |
| CAT | Committee Against Torture |
| CSOs | Civil Society Organizations |
| CRSV | Conflict-related Sexual Violence |
| FB | Facebook |
| FLA | Free Legal Aid |
| FBIH | Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina |
| GBV | Gender Based Violence |
| IDP | Internally Displaced Person |
| IOM | International Organization for Migration |
| JPSC | Joint Programme Steering Committee |
| MHRR | Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees (State level) |
| MPTF | Multi Partner Trust Fund |
| NGOs | Non-Governmental Organizations |
| PSVI | Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative |
| RS | Republika Srpska |
| SAP | Stigma Alleviation Programme |
| SOP | Standard Operating Procedures |
| ToT | Training of Trainers |
| UK | United Kingdom |
| UNCT | United Nations Country Team |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| UNJP | United Nations Joint Programme |
| UN Women | United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women |
| VWS | Victim/Witness Support |

1. Background

In 2014, the UN Country Team (UNCT) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) developed a Joint Programme to comprehensively address the unresolved legacy of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) from the 1992-1995 conflict in BiH. The aim of the Joint Programme is to enhance the status of, and provide redress to, survivors of CRSV by advocating for equal access to reparations, ensuring further development and expansion of services in the health and economic sectors, improved access to justice, and combatting stigmatization towards survivors of CRSV.

As recognized in the reports of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences, and of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSR – SVC), more than 20 years after the war, the need to provide redress to survivors of CRSV is greater than ever. Indeed, both societal and governmental recognition of the harms suffered by CRSV survivors - both women and men - during the war is lacking. Survivors and their families are often isolated from society and struggling to maintain an adequate income, while at the same time receiving insufficient support from the authorities. Limited knowledge of legal rights, resources and available services, as well as restricted physical mobility contribute to make it difficult for survivors to access their rights, seek justice and demand support and rehabilitation. The overall stigma and the attitudes of society towards survivors of CRSV serve as another form of victimization, thus explaining why most survivors of CRSV in BiH prefer to maintain their silence, seeking neither services nor justice. Moreover, survivors often lack access to tailor-made services, such as free legal advice and access to affordable and appropriate psycho-social and health care services, including mental, sexual and reproductive health services, as well as economic empowerment.

In order to address these diverse challenges, the UNCT in BiH chose a holistic approach that builds on the mandates and combines the expertise of four UN Organizations: The International Organization for Migrations (IOM), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). As recognized within the Guidance Note of the UN Secretary General on Reparations for Conflict-related Sexual Violence, comprehensive programs are in fact key in providing redress to survivors of CRSV¹. Thanks to this approach, the UNCT in BiH is able to address the issue in a number of sectors that are of relevance for survivors. The Joint Programme is in fact structured in four main components:

¹ “The UN should promote comprehensive programs which may also include all or some variation of individual, collective, symbolic, and material reparations as well as priority access to services.” [Guidance Note of the UN Secretary-General on Reparations for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, page 6]



The Programme is implemented throughout BiH, in both its entities, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) and Republika Srpska (RS) as well as in the autonomous District of Brcko (BD). While some activities – such as legislation - focus on entity and district level, some others tackle the problem at the local, municipal or cantonal level.

The Joint Programme started in September 2014 with initial funding from the United Kingdom (UK) Government and continued with renewed support from the Government of the UK, the Government of Canada and the UN Action. The Government of the UK has confirmed its support to Programme until March 2020, with focus on alleviation of stigma against CRSV and improvement of legislation².

2. Project Implementation – Overview & Results in 2017

Summary of Key results:

Economic empowerment of CRSV survivors:

- In Brcko District, Employment Bureau has agreed to **give preferential treatment to CRSV survivors** in their self-employment programs. In addition, direct individual support was piloted with a group of 15 survivors who were supported in their start-up efforts (and primarily focusing on handicrafts and agriculture).
- In FBiH, UN Women conducted a series of **capacity development trainings** for associations and survivors across FBiH (120 direct participants), giving them necessary skills and guidelines to access grants and programs from the FBiH Employment Fund (short [info](#) from our latest training in Medjugorje)

² A project proposal has been sent in January 2018 to the UK Government, but feedback has not been received yet.

- In parallel, **individual support** was given to 3 survivors from Brcko District who expressed interest to apply for the Employment Bureau's self-employment program (and access start-up funding)
- **Training modules and guidelines** on developing, sustaining and delivering of economic empowerment programs to vulnerable and marginalized groups (CRSV survivors) was produced and disseminated to the following counterparts: FBiH Fund for Professional Development and Employment of Persons with Disabilities, Brcko District Employment Bureau, and representatives of 32 CRSV CSOs that directly work with survivors and their families
- **Final impact assessment** for 3 economic schemes has been finalized, demonstrating long-term effect and impact on lives of CRSV survivors. Good practices and recommendations from the 3 schemes were utilized to shape the work on government-led economic programs

Access to justice for CRSV survivors:

- Joint UNFPA/UNDP Compendium containing **two resource packages** (1 integrated for BiH, FBiH and BD and one for RS) and two sets of **training materials** (BiH/BD, FBiH and RS) including **Training of Trainers** module for CRSV-sensitive provision of Free Legal Aid services to GBV/CRSV survivors was compiled, printed and delivered to the FLA Providers and the Ministry of Justice as all government levels; as such, the compendium allows for easy replication of knowledge in similar, post-conflict settings.
- Draft **SOP for free legal aid providers** to ensure a comprehensive and sensitive access to services for CRSV survivors developed in cooperation with the FLA Network of BiH. The SOP defines steps, measures, services and monitoring tools to be in place in each of the corresponding institutions

a) Activities Undertaken (the Process)

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

Activity 1: Developing of the economic empowerment programme, including developing guidelines for applicants (registration, application process) and by-laws for institutions in the FBiH and in BD

In the FBiH, this activity will be implemented in cooperation with the FBiH Fund for Employment, through the establishment of a working group and with the engagement of a specialist consultant to support the process. In Brcko District, this activity will be done in cooperation with the Employment Service of Brcko District and the Department for Economic Development and with the engagement of a specialist consultant.

Achievements:

As a result of previous project work focused on the integration of the employment sector in a comprehensive service provision system, in the final year of project implementation UN Women focused on developing all preconditions for a dedicated economic empowerment program in FBiH and BD.

Previous analysis conducted by UN Women demonstrated that survivors do not enjoy their right to preferential treatment in employment, despite the fact that this provision is included in legislation in both BD and the FBiH. To ensure the enjoyment of economic rights for the survivors in each entity, three road maps were then developed for governments in FBiH, RS, and BD to use as an ideal development scenario, including amending of legislation, capacity building and establishing of referrals. In order to come up with the most suitable approach in a relatively short period of time, UN Women hired a team of consultants (legal and economic advisor) to consider the 3 roadmaps, analyze the existing legal framework, existing economic programs and potential entry points for creating a suitable program for CRSV survivors' economic empowerment under the current structure (especially given the particular needs of the target population).

The team consulted with the FBiH Employment Bureau, FBiH Fund for Professional Development and Employment of Persons with Disabilities, FBiH Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and FBiH Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Crafts. In addition, the team consulted the 4 CSOs that are legally eligible to issue status of "special category of civilian victim of war" to CRSV survivors, in order to better understand the status rights that

survivors enjoy as well as their economic needs today. The analysis has shown that within the existing programs of all of the relevant institutions, there is sufficient scope to incorporate the current economic needs of CRSV survivors, without needing to undertake any law or by-law amendments in FBiH.

The report clearly states and elaborates the need to “use the resources of the Fund for the Professional Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities. Namely, the Fund has solid programs for the support of employment and self-employment of persons with disabilities, as well as the financing of the work of protected workshops. The majority of the female victims of war have 60% disabilities which makes them eligible for the use of the resources of the Fund. The Fund provides professional support, the payment of monetary compensations and stimuli, financing and co-financing of programs and projects.”

Activity 2: Development of resource package for employment related institutions in Federation and Brcko District

The resource packages will be developed by a working group comprised of representatives of the FBiH Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, FBiH Employment Fund and FBiH Fund for Professional Rehabilitation, as well as the Ministry of Health – which is necessary for the linkages between centers for mental health and employment bureaus - and relevant institutions from Brcko District.

Achievements:

In Brcko District, a more individual approach was suggested (namely because of small number of CRSV survivors residing in the District) so negotiations took place with BD Employment Bureau in order to ensure preferential treatment of CRSV survivors within the existing employment and self-employment programs within that institution. After a significant amount of lobbying, BD Employment Bureau and BD Government agreed to introduce preferential treatment of CRSV survivors in all economic empowerment and self-employment calls. This move significantly expedites their access to available funding but most importantly, it removes social stigma from the process.

UN Women achieved this through a tailored support and guidance for service providers directly working with CRSV survivors, so they could engage in interaction based on respect, trust and understanding – removing the barrier of stigma from the process.

Activity 3: Development of training of trainers' (ToT) package for employment related institutions in the FBiH and Brcko District

The ToT package will be developed by two consultants engaged by UN Women.

Progress:

The pool of Trainers of Trainers is meant to ensure the long-term sustainability and replicability of knowledge and skills linked with economic empowerment programs for CRSV survivors. It is important to note that economic empowerment programs were not a novelty that was brought by this Joint Program – civil society organizations have implemented them for decades in Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, where this JP is adding value is in pushing the system to institutionalize all the knowledge and skills from the field and transform it into permanent and sustainable employment programs that can continue supporting survivors long after the JP closes and without the need for continuous injection of donor funds. In that sense, these programs represent a very concrete step by the government authorities to provide restitution to survivor of CRSV.

Moving on and following the functional analysis of the existing economic support programs available in the country, UN Women initiated the capacity building phase of project implementation. UN Women engaged 2 national consultants (economic and legal advisors) to develop training materials, ToT and resource package (methodology, legal framework, situational analysis of the existing funds, pathways for economic empowerment of CRSV survivors – current state of play, recommendations for long-term support and training materials for applying to existing grants) for government institutions and CRSV associations interested in economic empowerment, employment and self-employment. The overall objective of this consultancy was to ensure that CRSV CSOs and survivors access existing government programs for economic empowerment and that government institutions that manage these grants are capacitated and sensitized in ensuring easy access for survivors.

Once developed, all the products were validated by corresponding stakeholder institutions (Employment Bureaus and Employment Funds in FBiH and BD), ensuring applicability at lower, municipal levels.

Activity 4: Training of trainers

The trainings will be conducted by a consultant engaged by UN Women, with involvement of experts from the relevant institutions and based on the resource packages and ToT package.

Progress:

Using the already developed and approved training modules and resource packages, UN Women organized 4 ToT sessions with selected CSOs across FBiH (Seka from Gorazde; Snaga zene from Tuzla; Glas zene from Zivinice; and FLD from Sarajevo). Training of Trainers program was delivered over the course of 2 days and provided participants with necessary information, skills and techniques needed for them to be able to continuously educate CRSV survivors on how to access economic empowerment support.

CSO participants were selected following the next criteria: a) extensive experience in dealing with the issue of CRSV (service providers – medical, psychosocial support or economic empowerment); b) previous knowledge of public institutions' procedures on applying for CRSV economic empowerment support and c) willingness to continue providing mentorship and support to survivors after the education is completed, pro-bono.

Trainings were delivered by 2 experts (one with extensive CRSV experience, and the other with a thorough knowledge on procedures and practices of public institutions providing economic empowerment support) and was structured across 8 workshops. A total of 20 Trainers of Trainers were capacitated through this process, giving both the UNCT and public institutions access to a pool of diverse trainers and experts.

Activity 5: Capacity building and trainings for FBiH employment bureaus and BD Employment Service

Based on the resource package and ToT package, the capacities of FBiH employment bureaus and BD Employment Service to work with CRSV survivors will be enhanced. Trainings will be delivered by the trainers from the employment bureaus or Ministries to employment bureaus staff throughout the FBiH and Brcko District.

Progress:

A total of 6 trainings of CSOs across FBiH were conducted (Bihac, Tuzla, Zenica, Gorazde, Sarajevo, Mostar). Trainings were delivered by experts from the pool of trainers the Joint Program has worked with in the previous phases. These training were delivered over the course of two days and targeted 40 representatives of CSOs. Our starting notion was that

even with built and resources system, sensitized service providers, CRSV survivors will still be hesitant to access these opportunities. Reasons are multiple – such as lack of faith in the efficiency of the system or the in the benevolence of the process. In that sense, survivors often need someone to provide them with additional information on how to process will flow, even before attempting to reach out to institutions. Survivors in BiH need someone they trust to show them the pathway to obtaining rights and entitlements. All those 40 representatives of CSOs were introduced to all the aspects of the economic empowerment process (how to apply, what to submit, what is the pathway, what are the outcomes, how to troubleshoot the most common issues etc.). This effectively created a network of trust, spanning FBiH and BD, that survivors can count on when accessing the services.

Activity 6: Promotion of the programme through CSOs

Once the programs are developed and funds for 2019 are secured, UN Women will organize roundtables in selected municipalities and Brcko District, and with CSOs' support promote the possibility to apply to the programs.

Progress:

Following the structural changes with the Fund, UN Women organized three outreach events in Sarajevo, Mostar and Zenica, presenting the newly established mechanisms to potential applicants.

Trainings were delivered with representatives of stakeholder institutions (the Fund, the Bureau), describing in detail how to application procedures goes, what are the main requirements and how to help is being rendered.

The events were attended by 40 potential applicants (CRSV survivors).

Activity 7: Follow-up monitoring of the impact of economic empowerment schemes

In 2017, UN Women has conducted an initial assessment of the impact of the schemes established in Gorazde, Bratunac and Brcko. This assessment was intended to review progress towards the following objectives of the schemes:

- Ensuring sustainable income for CRSV survivors;
- Helping CRSV survivors establish tighter relations with their families and become active member of their households;
- Empowering CRSV survivors to have funds at their disposal and position to

- manage household's budget;
- Encouraging CRSV survivors to interact with other members of the society, actively participate in the scheme and consider applying to programs similar in scope.

Given the fact that the three schemes were at a different level of development at the time of this assessment, further monitoring of the aspects of social and economic empowerment of the beneficiaries of the schemes is necessary. This further monitoring and assessment will also allow to track the increase of income of survivors through the schemes over a period of one to two years (depending on when the scheme was set up). The monitoring will give important data and lessons learnt for the programs to be implemented in 2019 and future programs.

Two consultants will be engaged to monitor the beneficiaries of the schemes and develop an assessment of the schemes' impact. One will focus on measuring the economic empowerment and the other will place focus on the social integration and personal empowerment of the survivor within her/his family and community.

Progress:

Each training provided immediate effects because concrete matching of needs of women and economic empowerment programs was conducted. As an example, the most visible effect was achieved is enabling a survivor from Zenica to immediately after the completion of the training (the following day) approach the Fund for and realize the right for tax and salary contributions compensation.

In Brcko District, the expert team worked closely with BD Employment Service in creating 15 individual business plans. In order to be submitted, they are now pending an official public call of the BD Government and BD Employment Bureau that will feature a clause of preferential treatment for CRSV survivors.

In addition to the work on accessing government economic grants and as per Activity 7, UN Women has also finalized impact assessment of the three economic empowerment schemes that were put in place in the earlier years of project implementation (in Brcko, Gorazde and Bratunac). The impact assessment has provided a detailed reflection on lessons learned from the implementation of 3 different modalities of economic assistance to survivors in these three locations. The schemes benefited around 80 survivors and 150 family members. Captured lessons were utilized in creating the most suitable approach for capacity building for CSOs and individuals in accessing government economic empowerment and self-employment grants

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

Activity 1. Publishing and distribution of Free Legal Aid (FLA) education material

This activity includes review, editing, design and printing of the three resource packages (state/BD, FBiH and RS) and training packages (RS and FBiH-BD-BiH) previously developed with UK funding. Said documents will be used during the training sessions foreseen in activities 2 and 3 and further distributed amongst FLA offices across BiH, in cooperation with relevant ministries of justice.

Progress:

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 were developed and endorsed by the Free Legal Aid Network. In addition, 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 were finalized and endorsed by the FLA Network.

Following their endorsement, in the last phase of the project implementation, both the Resource Package and Training modules were prepared for printing including review, editing and design - along with UNFPA materials to be shared with FLA providers and Ministries of Justice at all levels (state, entities, cantons).

In order to ensure coordinated and uniform approach to services, UNDP and UNFPA agreed to create a joint compendium containing all relevant materials – resource packages and training materials produced by the two agencies for service providers in health and justice sectors. Therefore, due to complexity and a huge amount of materials to be compiled and integrated into a compendium, it has been agreed with UNFPA to postpone the finalization of this activity for September 2019. Therefore, the final hand-over ceremony to the key partners will be organized by UNFPA and it is expected to take place at the end of 2019.

This resource package shall enable the employees in the justice sector to apply a comprehensive approach in the support programs, both victims of violence and their children and the perpetrators of gender-based violence and sexual violence in armed conflict. A coordinated response of the institutions within the justice sector and within the multi-sectoral referral mechanism is of crucial importance for prevention of further violence and provision of adequate support to survivors of gender-based violence and CRSV victims. It will further contribute to the enhanced quality and sensitivity of free legal

aid and health services accessed by CRSV survivors and their better referral across different sectors.

Activity 2. Follow-up training session for FLA pool of trainers (adult-learning module)

As mentioned above, with current UK Government funding, UNDP planned to create a pool of trainers who would be in charge of training of local FLA agencies and NGOs' staff even beyond the duration of the Programme. However, due to insufficient resources, it will only be possible to cover part of the curriculum foreseen by the training package. This activity, thus, aims to conclude the training for trainers by adding an adult learning module that will enable future trainers to conduct peer education of current and new FLA staff. Direct beneficiaries of this activity will be about 15 FLA officers from across BiH. Capacity building of the trainers' pool will be conducted in close cooperation with relevant ministries of justice.

Progress:

This activity was jointly delivered with UNFPA, linking together pools of trainers from healthcare system (medical, psychosocial) with legal (access to free legal aid), building necessary horizontal links that would enable cross-referral of survivors between these two service provision systems.

Trainings were based on the materials developed in previous activities and the selection of participants was done in coordination with the Ministry of Justice, ensuring complete buy-in and support to the process. A team of 4 trainers delivered two-day long capacity development trainings that focused on a) free legal aid (how citizens access justice) and b) additional layers of considerations to take into account when rendering support (how to provide contextualized and sensitized service and assistance to CRSV survivors). An additional working session was dedicated to role plays where service providers interacted with fictional survivors (played by the trainers) while accessing services in free-legal aid centers across the country.

Activity 3. Training of FLA local staff

Following the model of the health sector, in target locations UNDP will support the development of protocols illustrating the pathways for service delivery and referral of CRSV and GBV survivors within the justice sector and to the health and psychosocial support sectors. Protocols will be based on the previously developed resource packages and aligned with health and psychosocial support protocols

Progress:

Following the model of the health sector, in target locations UNDP supported the development of protocols – standard operational procedures for free legal aid providers illustrating the pathways for service delivery and referral of CRSV and GBV survivors within the justice sector and to the health and psychosocial support sectors. For this assignment an expert was hired to develop the SoP for FLA providers based on the previously developed resource packages and aligned with health and psychosocial support protocols. The final draft has been developed in coordination with the FLA Network by the end of May. However, it should be noted that due to the closer of the project in June 2019, the finalization of the final SoP will be done under the Joint Coordination Unit. Once finalized, it will be integrated, along with the resource packages and UNFPA respective documents, into a compendium to be used by justice and health sector service providers.

To conclude, sustainable support through Free Legal Aid (FLA) for CRSV survivors while accessing justice was institutionalized in 2018, through development of resource packages, education materials and trainings on this subject, and their delivery to the FLA service providers across the country. Through these activities, objective of the project has been fully achieved, i.e. fully capacitation and institutionalization of free legal aid services through provision of sensitive and tailored to the needs of CRSV survivors.

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.

On the basis of the previously developed training packages, training for an initial 20 FLA local staff will be organized in target locations based on the training packages. Training sessions will be aligned with health and psychosocial support sectors.

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| Activity 4. Development of institutional protocols for FLA providers |
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Following the model of the health sector, in target locations UNDP will support the development of protocols illustrating the pathways for service delivery and referral of

CRSV and GBV survivors within the justice sector and to the health and psychosocial support sectors. Protocols will be based on the previously developed resource packages and aligned with health and psychosocial support protocols.

Progress:

UNDP utilized the network of existing FLA providers (19 [locations](#) across the country) to create an additional channel for CRSV survivors seeking legal aid. UNDP mirrored the healthcare SOPs for CRSV survivors established in the previous phases of the JP (2015-2017), defining steps, services and monitoring tools that service providers undertake and active when encountering CRSV survivors. FLA network is also linked with corresponding healthcare institutions (public health centers, centers for mental health), allowing free-legal aid providers an option to directly refer CRSV survivors to trained medical professionals for additional support.

Direct beneficiaries of UNDP activities are FLA providers from all BiH – including BiH, RS, BD and cantonal level public FLA agencies and NGOs. Indirect beneficiaries are CRSV survivors and other vulnerable categories such as survivors of domestic and gender-based violence, as well as civilian victims of war, who would receive more targeted and sensitive services.

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| <p><u>Activity 5. Strengthening of monitoring, coordination and outreach tools and mechanisms for better provision of FLA services</u></p> |
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This activity is designed to address the current inadequate level of public awareness about FLA and the need for a more coordinated delivery of FLA services by BiH FLA agencies, to ultimately ensure appropriate treatment of vulnerable and marginalized groups, including CRSV survivors, in all type of proceedings. To support these efforts, UNDP will provide technical and administrative inputs for the organization of the annual FLA network meetings, for monitoring of service delivery through the ELAS database and for public outreach through the FLA Network website and other outreach activities.

Progress:

UNDP has organized capacity development trainings for Free legal aid (FLA) providers on how to support CRSV survivors in the full spectrum of rights with a primary focus on justice.

Through the trainings 23 members of FLA providers are:

- ✓ introduced with new call and economic programs in FBIH and RS;
- ✓ familiarized with legal procedures within the FBIH Fund for Rehabilitation and Employment of People with Disabilities in FBIH and possibilities for CRSV survivors to apply for funding opportunities;
- ✓ informed on how to support CRSV survivors in their efforts to access their rights,

Additionally, FLA providers were informed about application procedures and necessary legal steps to fulfil applications, familiar with technical support that CRSV survivors need in order to finalize individual applications for status and rights.

Activity 6. Monitoring, management of relations with partners and knowledge sharing

This activity covers all travel, accommodation, translation, and other costs incurred by UNDP staff in the course of setting up, implementation and monitoring of project activities, including participation in Joint Programme events (e.g. Steering Committee meetings), knowledge sharing and other UN CRSV-related processes.

Progress:

All knowledge products will be made available in perpetuity on UNCT BiH website. UN will cover all the hosting and maintenance costs for all knowledge products beyond project closure. Website will host all information, knowledge and tools developed during project implementation, in English and local languages.

This activity was delayed because UN has changed global rules on the set-up of country-level websites for joint projects – as of April 2020, joint projects' websites will have a uniformed layout and design. UNCT Joint Project on CRSV.

In parallel, UNCT JP held regular Steering Committee meetings and meetings of Civil Society Advisory Group, directing the programmatic delivery of the project. Institutional stakeholders present in the Steering Committee remained the same ever since 2014, reflecting deep commitment of authorities to this issue and to this program.

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]

Activity 1. Research on children born of war-time rape in BiH

The research will be conducted through a consultant selected in coordination with PUNOs and in collaboration with main NGOs who are working with CRSV survivors and their family members. The main objective of the study is to get up-to-date insight in the current condition of children born of rape, with the objective of presenting recommendations for future work with this category. The 'do no harm' approach will be ensured throughout the process.

Progress:

In order to prepare for the research, the team reached out to the Association 'Forgotten children of war' – the only association in BiH that advocates on behalf of children conceived of wartime rape, in order to join forces and conduct this research in a transparent, inclusive manner. Additionally, team assembled a team of CRSV experts and practitioners to develop research methodology; established a technical advisory group (comprised of government institutions, academia, civil society and experts), tasked with reviewing and validating research methodology and the overall approach.

In our discussion with the Association, we became aware that their membership relates primarily to the category of children 'born because of the war' – a broad category that focuses on relationships between local women and international peacekeepers and aid workers. Children conceived of wartime rape represent a small fraction of their membership.

In light of this fact, the Association is opposing our research and its focus solely on children conceived of rape. They are requesting that we also include children 'born because of the war' into our research scope, in exchange for participation of their members as interviewees. Alternatively, they will instruct their members (especially children conceived of rape), to not participate in our research efforts, effectively cutting us off from the pool of potential interviewees.

While we understand their arguments and their overall strategy, our acquiescence to this broader category of the research may have deeper implications at the national, but also

global level (given the size and scope of international peacekeepers' and aid workers' involvement during and after the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina).

With that in mind, we are at a cross-roads now with several options on how to approach this research issue: **a) conduct the research** the way it was originally planned but antagonising the Association; **b) expand the scope** of the research to include peacekeepers and aid workers, with possible wider-reaching implications; and **c) scuttle the research** altogether, and reprogram funds into capacity building support for the Association, boosting their ability to conduct similar research on their own.

In order to reach the optimum solution, **we needed additional time** to consult with all the stakeholders, including the Association, on how to proceed further.

Following the previous no-cost extension, UNCT JP embarked on broad of consultations with stakeholders (FBiH Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees; BiH Gender Equality Agency; Entities' Gender Centers; CRSV experts; members of the academia; and survivors' associations), in order to find a solution for an impasse regarding the request of the association "Forgotten children of war" to also include children fathered by UN peacekeepers and other internationals during the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina. UNCT JP formed *an expert team* comprised of neuro-psychiatrists, psychologists and medical doctors, all with 20+ years of experience in working with survivors of CRSV and tasked them with developing research methodology to be used in the eventual research. At the same time, UNCT JP also formed a Technical Advisory Body (TAB) to oversee the development of the research methodology, and the eventual field work. The body is comprised of representatives of BiH Gender Centers, BiH Agency for Gender Equality, University of Sarajevo, University of Sarajevo, Association "Forgotten children of war", BiH Ombudsmen's office. TAB developed research principles to guide the research team during their work (see Annex TAB principles).

Unfortunately, we weren't able to come to a solution that would allow us to focus on lived realities of people conceived from war-time rape without including "peacekeeper babies" into the research, at the insistence of Association "Forgotten Children of War". Given the different perceptions of inherent identities in BiH between people conceived through wartime rape by enemy troops/combatants, research could not be implemented as originally planned. In that sense, UNCT JP will publish the research methodology, and all related guidelines developed by the expert team, in hopes that they could be used elsewhere, in similar settings, for the research focusing on people conceived of rape. We believe that this would expedite and facilitate similar processes elsewhere, as it really represents a lesson learned from this joint program. UNCT will distribute this

methodology to in-country stakeholders, but also globally through UNFPA knowledge management hubs and regional offices.

As a remedial measure for this development, UNCT JP preliminarily engaged with the Inter-religious council in setting the ground for application of the eventual research findings to the work being done by religious communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina (it was originally foreseen by the project that faith-based organizations take a more active role in combating CRSV stigma, including stigma related to people conceived of wartime rape).

Given the complications with proceeding with the survey, the Inter-religious Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina still wants to be actively involved and engaged in alleviating CRSV stigma in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also in Serbia, Croatia and Kosovo (given the legacy of Yugoslav dissolution wars and CRSV). In that sense, it seems like a good opportunity to support this willingness and take it further by offering them a platform to promote non-stigmatizing views and opinions regarding CRSV survivors in the sub-region.

Sadly, even with all the remedial measures UNCT JP on 'Seeking care, support and justice for CRSV survivors' in BiH was not able to implement this activity. In that sense, we obtained approval from the UN Action to reprogram funds from this activity to a sub-regional conference of faith-based organizations and religious communities from Western Balkans, titled "Sustaining peace through trust building and reconciliation – Support to survivors of conflict-related sexual violence", and aimed at developing a regional plan of action of providing support to survivors of CRSV.

The regional conference would be organized on 25-26 September 2019 in Sarajevo, by UNFPA, Inter-religious Council in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Ministry of Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The event would also be supported by UNFPA offices from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo* and Serbia. The conference would gather representatives of faith-based organizations, survivors' associations, governments, academics, media, civil society, United Nations and other international institutions in South-East Europe, to discuss the linkage between accumulated pain and trauma, legacy of CRSV and peace and stability in the region. This opportunity would be used to develop concrete proposals and plans of action at the regional level that could contribute to alleviation of CRSV stigma and pain, through joint activism of faith-based organizations, public institutions, civil society and community leaders.

It would be built upon work done by the Inter-religious Council in BiH relating to both providing direct support to survivors and alleviating CRSV stigma (Declaration against

CRSV Stigma; Unified training program for members of the clergy for provision of psychosocial support to CRSV survivors), and would strive to mobilize support for the similar approach sub-regionally.

Each religious community would delegate representatives and each country/territory will be requested to also delegate government representatives (preferably at ministerial level) responsible for human rights/minority rights/religion and belief; parliamentarians working on human rights; prominent CSOs, youth advocates and experts working in the relevant areas. (Proposed agenda and the concept note is attached to this request).

Reprogramming Justification

Following the previous no-cost extension, UNCT JP embarked on broad of consultations with stakeholders (FBiH Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees; BiH Gender Equality Agency; Entities' Gender Centers; CRSV experts; members of the academia; and survivors' associations), in order to find a solution for an impasse regarding the request of the association "Forgotten children of war" to also include children fathered by UN peacekeepers and other internationals during the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina. UNCT JP formed *an expert team* comprised of neuro-psychiatrists, psychologists and medical doctors, all with 20+ years of experience in working with survivors of CRSV and tasked them with developing research methodology to be used in the eventual research. At the same time, UNCT JP also formed a Technical Advisory Body (TAB) to oversee the development of the research methodology, and the eventual field work. The body is comprised of representatives of BiH Gender Centers, BiH Agency for Gender Equality, University of Sarajevo, University of Sarajevo, Association "Forgotten children of war", BiH Ombudsmen's office. TAB developed research principles to guide the research team during their work (see Annex TAB principles).

Unfortunately, we weren't able to come to a solution that would allow us to focus on lived realities of people conceived from war-time rape without including "peacekeeper babies" into the research, at the insistence of Association "Forgotten Children of War". Given the different perceptions of inherent identities in BiH between people conceived through wartime rape by enemy troops/combatants, research could not be implemented as originally planned. In that sense, UNCT JP will publish the research methodology, and all related guidelines developed by the expert team, in hopes that they could be used elsewhere, in similar settings, for the research focusing on people conceived of rape. We believe that this would expedite and facilitate similar processes elsewhere, as it really represents a lesson learned from this joint program. UNCT will distribute this

methodology to in-country stakeholders, but also globally through UNFPA knowledge management hubs and regional offices.

As a remedial measure for this development, UNCT JP preliminarily engaged with the Inter-religious council in setting the ground for application of the eventual research findings to the work being done by religious communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina (it was originally foreseen by the project that faith-based organizations take a more active role in combating CRSV stigma, including stigma related to people conceived of wartime rape).

Given the complications with proceeding with the survey, the Inter-religious Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina still wants to be actively involved and engaged in alleviating CRSV stigma in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also in Serbia, Croatia and Kosovo (given the legacy of Yugoslav dissolution wars and CRSV). In that sense, it seems like a good opportunity to support this willingness and take it further by offering them a platform to promote non-stigmatizing views and opinions regarding CRSV survivors in the sub-region.

Activity 2. Integrating contextual care and support to children born out of rape, and children of CRSV survivors into existing capacity building for comprehensive psychosocial support in service delivery streams for CRSV survivors (psychosocial, faith-based organizations).

Building on tools developed under previous phases of the project (in relation to medical, and psychosocial services and capacity development), UNFPA will work with the line ministries in both entities to develop additional contents relating to children born of rape and children of CRSV survivors, to be further used by ministries' pools of trainers of trainers. Additionally, institutional protocols on service provision at local levels of care will also be augmented with provisions for children, allowing for a more thorough, contextual care and support to be delivered to individuals, families and the whole communities.

Progress:

Activity 3. Continued integration of community-based approaches to stigma prevention and alleviation, revolving around children born out of rape, and children of CRSV survivors (youth initiatives, local stakeholders and faith-based organizations).

UNFPA invested significant efforts when dealing with the issues of CRSV and stigmatization in bringing on-board all four religious communities. UNFPA developed training programs for members of the clergy on providing support and care to survivors of CRSV, and this activity will allow expansion of their knowledge, skills and sensibilities to include also

contextual understanding and care to children born of rape, and children of CRSV survivors.

Additionally, UNFPA will support youth initiatives at the local level (following the pilot in Gorazde, Bijeljina and Sanski Most), to include stigma alleviation elements that are raising public awareness on the need to also alleviate stigma towards children born of rape and children of CRSV survivors.

Progress:

Following the previous successes in engaging faith based organizations in Sustaining peace through trust-building and reconciliation: support to survivors of CRSV sub-regional conference was organized on September 25-26 in Catholic Seminary in Sarajevo, with 80 participants coming from BiH, Croatia, Serbia and Kosovo - Islamic Community, Serb Orthodox Church, Catholic Church and the Jewish Community delegated representatives, while prominent CSOs, youth advocates and experts also took part at the conference.

Conference was opened with introductory remarks from the representatives of religious communities: Husein **ef. Smajic**, Deputy of the Reis-ul-Ulama; **Brizostom**, Metropolitan of Dabar-Bosnia; H.E. Vinko Cardinal **Puljić** Archbishop of Vrhbosna Archdiocese; Jakob **Finci**, President of the Jewish Community), together with the UNFPA Representative, Ms. Aynabat Atayeva, UK Ambassador, H.E. Matthew Field and IOM representative, Mr. Peter Auweraert.

Conference was structured around two key items:

1. Raise awareness of religious communities on the need to tackle accumulated war time trauma (with an emphasis on the CRSV trauma and associated stigma), as impediments to longterm peace and stability
2. Formulate a joint plan of action at the sub-regional level, enlisting support of all traditional religious communities from BiH, Croatia, Serbia and Kosovo

First day of the conference was dedicated to building awareness of members of the clergy on the need for a broader, sustained and pronounced engagement of faith-based organizations and religious communities in promoting peace in the region. At the same time, a series of guest speakers, coming from all four religious communities, civil society (Snaga zene from Tuzla, Buducnost from Modrica, Medica from Zenica) and international

community (IOM) presented their take on the actual, lived reality of CRSV survivors today, and how their accumulated trauma is impacting their families, communities and the entire society.

Second day of the conference was dedicated to exploring ways and means of engagement of faith-based organizations and religious communities in building peace. To that end, additional speakers coming from youth associations and religious communities presented their views, opinions and proposals.

As the final act, IRC adopted the Regional Plan of Action for Sustaining Peace Through Trust-Building and Reconciliation.

IRC staff shared the proposed text of sustaining peace through trust-building and reconciliation regional plan of action with all participants prior to the conference, asking for feedback and inputs. These were integrated in the final draft version presented at the conference, prior to its adoption.

As a follow up to this activity, IRC and UNFPA will organize presentations of the Plan in regional capitals (Sarajevo, Zagreb, Belgrade, Pristina), raising public awareness on the need to tackle accumulated legacy of war time rape and trauma.

Output 4: Smooth coordination, advocacy and communication is ensured within the Joint Programme on CRSV [JPC/UNDP]

Activity 1: Joint Programme coordination, communication, resource mobilization, knowledge sharing and support to UN corporate and mandate-related issues

In order to support a coordinated implementation of the Joint Programme, the following initiatives will be undertaken under the supervision of the Joint Programme Coordinator:

- Organization of regular Joint Programme Steering Committee meetings
- Organization of regular CSOs Group meetings

This activity will also serve for a smooth coordination of PUNOs activities, communication and advocacy and for monitoring progress against set targets. The Coordinator will, in addition, oversee resource mobilization efforts and knowledge sharing – as needed.

Finally, the Joint Programme Coordinator will ensure coordination of reporting to donors, to UN Human Rights and Treaty Bodies as requested, to the UN Secretary General for the annual report on CRSV, etc

Progress:

Following the departure of UNDP and UNWomen from the UNCT JP on CRSV (funding that they are receiving from UN Action expired on June 30, 2019), UNDP transferred all the knowledge products to UNFPA and IOM.

They are being added to existing packages of knowledge and information, to be further shared and disseminated both in country and in the region. In that sense, the upcoming sub-regional conference of the religious communities will be used as an opportunity to further disseminate the information developed under the JP.

b) Results & Impacts

By the end of 2019 and through the combined efforts of three Agencies – UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women — further progress has been achieved when it comes to granting access to rights and services to CRSV survivors across BiH, improving the quality and accessibility of services as well as reducing the impact of stigma against CRSV.

The issue of conflict related sexual violence is deeply controversial, taboo and marginalized due to its nature and association with sex and suffering. Moreover, issues of war crimes and conflict are directly intertwined with CRSV, weaponizing it in the public discourse by various political entities and competing agendas, perpetuating the grievances felt by entire groups. This continuous feeding of grievances is preventing from wider community healing and is slowly building a cult-like narrative around survivors of conflict related sexual violence, paving the way for new national myths. The project is striving to deconstruct narratives of victimhood, exclusion, and overall stigmatization of survivors in local communities, where impacts of CRSV are felt the most. CRSV happened against a backdrop of widespread war crimes and societal degradation and is often seen as an embodiment of collective wrongdoings by the ‘opposing side’, forcing survivors to accept a new role as martyrs. This approach is completely neglecting the notion that survivors can overcome their newly assigned role and could actually reintegrate into society, reclaiming their lives. Unfortunately, they are relegated to the role of glorified remnants of the past conflict, during which the society is putting forward initiatives to institute a CRSV-survivors Remembrance Day, as if they are already deceased and discounted. This is precisely what this Program countered, simultaneously empowering survivors and sensitizing the public to support survivors in their efforts to reclaim their lives.

In that sense, we can observe results and impacts across programmatic outputs:

Output 1: Economic empowerment programs for CRSV survivors in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Brcko District developed [UN Women]

Change under *Output 1* is evident on two levels – **1)** Government institutions at FBiH and BD levels have undertaken their responsibilities towards CRSV survivors in the sense that economic empowerment programs for CRSV survivors exist; and **2)** Survivors are actually accessing economic empowerment programs, reducing the dependency on donor-driven and donor-funded programs, ensuring sustainability and replicability.

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

Change under *Output 2* is evident in a capacitated, established, and sustained network of 19 Free Legal Aid centers across BiH that are providing direct assistance and support to survivors access justice. That service is rendered in a way that takes into account specific sensitivities and needs of survivors (service providers are trained on how to establish first contact, how to process claims, how to report cases and how to refer survivors to other institutions – medical, psychosocial, economic).

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]

Delivery under Output 3 resulted in support systems for survivors of CRSV, built in cooperation with faith-based organizations and religious communities in BiH (Islamic Community, Serb Orthodox Church, Catholic Church and the Jewish Community). The Project raised capacities of members of the clergy from all four traditional religious communities, equipping them with skills for provision of psychosocial support to survivors of CRSV, including referring them to other institutions in order to access corresponding rights and entitlements.

Output 4: Smooth coordination, advocacy and communication is ensured within the Joint Programme on CRSV [JPC/UNDP]

Delivery under Output 4 resulted in the production of a Compendium of CRSV knowledge, tools and mechanisms – a summation of everything UNCT worked on CRSV from 2012-2019. Compendium is comprised of mapping tools, training and advocacy programs, guidelines, research and policy briefs (a total of 45) that can be used to set up CRSV support systems in post-conflict settings. The Compendium is hosted at the UNCT Bosnia and Herzegovina website and can be used by researchers, practitioners and survivors.

c) Sustainability

In the past two years, the UN Action contribution has been instrumental in solidifying

Building solutions to provide care, justice and support to survivors, including stigma alleviation was one of the longest running, strategic interventions for UN in Bosnia and Herzegovina's peace programming. Project always had a two-fold impact: a) to create conditions for the immediate service provision to survivors, alleviating the most pressing needs (medical, psychological, economic); and b) to induce a favorable socio-political conditions to alleviate the social, communal and societal impacts of CRSV trauma.

With this approach in mind, the project's sustainability can be observed at three levels:

Institutional ownership – all our interventions in the realm of service provision, policy development and establishment of mechanisms have co-opted all the key stakeholders (line ministries, faith-based organizations, CSOs and survivor's organizations), ensuring full ownership over the process, products, deliverables and impacts. Through this phase of intervention service delivery system will be fortified to prevent stigmatization and re-traumatization of survivors while they are seeking/receiving care and support. Interventions with faith-based organizations will have produced tools, knowledge and skills (including new practices) within this sector to ensure long term prevention of stigmatization of survivors. Most importantly, this process of cooperation with FBOs would present them with modalities of functional cooperation with stakeholders they don't usually consider typical partners, opening venues for additional areas of future cooperation over sensitive, but crucial local community issues.

Cross country visits aim for knowledge exchange between different institutional level and for the utilization of good practices that will ultimately ensure improvements in understanding and implanting support at different levels for survivors of CRSV.

Local ownership - throughout previous phases project have intervened in numerous local communities with an aim of softening attitudes of general local public toward survivors and capacitating the service providers to conduct registration processes and services. This phase of the project will expend already developed tools (manuals, guidelines and instructions) and localize them within the municipal bodies. Involving local institutions and CSOs in the dissemination of info on the registration procedure the project ensures that local institutions and actors are the drivers of the process. All developed tools (videos, guidelines, multimedia materials) will be donated to entity ministries and local institutions for their further use. The local owned processes will ultimately faster reach the survivors who are still in the process of coming forward and submitting claims for their granted rights. Once survivors know what support is available for them at local levels, where to get it and how to access it all this

knowledge will become survivor's ownership that is easily sustained and transmitted to other survivors across the country.

Changed narratives – while the previous section examined sustainability over the hardware (tools, skills, knowledge both at systemic and local levels), the softer part of this intervention relates to changing narratives, public discourse, views and attitudes over local community issues. Topics such as conflict-related sexual violence have been seen as extremely contentious and controversial, that the entire discourse around them became reductive, stagnant and marginalized. Moreover, narrative is dominated by notions of sacrifice, suffering, wrongdoing and destroyed lives of individuals and communities – completely reducing chances for any transformative moments for survivors or entire communities. Sustainability in this segment will be reflected in the fact that non-traditional stakeholders (primarily – young people), will take over a topic so controversial, and transform it into a hope-bearing moment. Our long-term bet is that platforms set up by young people across local communities to fight stigma will become peace-building hubs, ready to sustain the efforts of CRSV survivors towards community reintegration.

3. Lessons-Learned & Best practices

Challenges

Irregular, short-term and insufficient funding remains the greatest challenge for the Joint Programme. Given the magnitude of the problem and the challenges posed by both the political environment and the sensitivity of the subject, long-term interventions are the best suited to ensure sustainable and fully owned results. However, donors' priorities and limited attention to war-related issues have hampered the UN's ability to guarantee such strategy in all four sectors of the Joint Programme. In the future, the UN plans to scale down activities in the sectors where there's less opportunity to find resources, and to develop an exit strategy that can ensure governments take over the responsibility over results and further actions.

Work at the State level also represents a great challenge. Despite state-level legislation has been recognized as the most efficient way to guarantee equal access to reparations to all BiH CRSV survivors, the administrative complexity of the country – which delegates important responsibilities to the Entities - and the political environment do not currently allow such a solution. The UN will continue monitoring the situation closely, to identify any opportunity to reopen a discussion on this route.

Lessons learnt and good practices

Fighting preconceptions that prevent discussion on CRSV

Primary observation from this cycle of implementation is that both the general public and service providers/decision makers believe they are wary of this topic, regarding it as stale, controversial or foregone. However, when confronted with baseline data on public perceptions, with survivors' testimonials and with service providers' push to improve services, these beliefs were quick to change, opening room for more debate on peacebuilding, reconciliation, and a frank discussion on gender norms and how they disproportionately punish women.

Lessons learnt from economic empowerment schemes

During the development, implementation, monitoring and assessment of the economic empowerment schemes in Brcko, Bratunac and Gorazde, UN Women and UNDP gathered the following lessons:

- In order to prepare survivors to participate in economic activities, it is fundamental to provide them with some psycho-social support, both individually and as a group.

It is, in fact, necessary to build their confidence and trust before starting an activity that can be somehow stressful or take them out of their usual comfort zone.

- Individual business plan development has proven to be more effective in contexts where survivors do not know each other or are not grouped in an association. However, all participants have underscored the importance of holding some activities as a group, to have the opportunity to interact, create safe spaces for talking and exchange impressions on the work being done.
- Survivors initially display a distrust in their abilities to take part in economic schemes and to commit to work deadlines and tasks. However, once they start being engaged, their reluctance reduces and they acquire more confidence in themselves.
- As shown in the study on stigma against CRSV, one of the aspects of stigma is survivors' auto or self-stigma, i.e. survivors' perception of being guilty and responsible for the violence perpetrated against them and a consequent feeling of worthlessness. A lesson learnt from this intervention is that economic empowerment – beyond the monetary element - has positive impact on alleviating survivors' self-stigmatization

Lessons learned through the Gender lense

The issue of conflict-related sexual violence differs from other instances of grievous war-crimes (torture, extermination etc) in a way that it includes issues such as gender norms, sex, sexuality and power dynamics into an already complex situation.

Stigmatization around CRSV is particularly strong and persistent in Bosnia and Herzegovina, both due to widespread traditional views on gender norms and sexual behaviours and to the marginalization of women – the most affected by this crime – in the peace and transitional justice discourse.

On the other hand, and of course, the project is fully cognizant that men were also survivors of conflict-related sexual violence and the project pays special care to untangling this issue from the issue of perceived homosexuality, removing yet another layer of stigmatization of survivors but also preventing the general public from erroneously conflating the issue of sexual assault against men with unrestrained and rampant homosexuality.

Significant efforts were invested in understanding the issues of toxic masculinities and their manifestations and impacts onto patterns of violence among men in Bosnia and Herzegovina, charting a way on to how to transform traditional notions around gender and violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In the overall, project interventions are designed to benefit both female and male survivors of CRSV and take into consideration the diverse needs and requirements they may have. In addition, the project aims to reduce the stigma that surrounds sexual violence and war-related sexual violence, challenging the traditional gender paradigms that reinforce such

beliefs and attitudes towards survivors. The project will advocate that the legal provisions in relation to gender equality, respect of the dignity and needs of both men and women survivors are taken into account in the legislative framework and registration procedures conducted in strictly legally prescribed manner.

