

Translating the SDG Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina into sustainable and inclusive growth

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The Second Annual Progress Report

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Contents

- Contents2
- Introduction and Project Description.....5
- Executive summary6
- Overview of the Programme results in the reporting period (July 2023 – June 2024)9
 - Outcome 1: Authorities at state, entity and Brčko District BiH levels effectively work on planning, implementing, monitoring, and reporting on the SDG Framework in BiH and foster development partnerships.9
 - Output 1.1. The SDG steering body and institutional partners at state, entity and Brčko District levels are equipped with knowledge, capacities and tools for synchronized and effective planning, financing, monitoring, and reporting on the implementation of the SDG Framework in BiH*9
 - 1.1.1. Support to effective functioning of the SDG Council in BiH9
 - 1.1.2. Strengthening governments’ planning systems for effective implementation of the SDGs, monitoring and reporting 11
 - 1.1.3. Supporting governments in translating selected development accelerators into action..... 13
 - 1.1.5. Strengthening state and entity statistical institutions’ capacities for monitoring achievements towards SDG targets 20
 - Output 1.2: Public financing instruments at the entity and/or cantonal level sustainably reinforce the achievement of the SDGs in selected priority areas, including through partnerships with the private sector 21
 - Output 1.3. Advancing engagement of private sector and other stakeholders in sustainable development 23
 - 1.3.1. Engaging private sector to promote sustainable development..... 23
 - 1.3.2. SDG Week in BiH and promotion of SDG localization 26
 - Outcome 2: Cantonal and local governments actively contribute to implementation of the SDG Framework in BiH 27
 - Output 2.1. Local governments capabilities to plan, finance, implement, monitor and report on their SDG achievements enhanced (up to 8 local governments)..... 27
- Overall Management 31
- Lessons learned..... 32
- Gender equality 33
- Implementation challenges 36
- Synergies with other interventions..... 37
- Financial overview Error! Bookmark not defined.

Glossary

B2B	Business to Business
BIH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
BHAS	BIH Agency for Statistics
BPPS	Bureau for Policy and Programme Support
BD	Brčko District
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CO	Country Office
CoM BiH	Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina
DEP	Directorate for Economic Planning (BIH)
DIM	Direct Implementation Modality
FBIH	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
GRI	Global Reporting Initiative
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
IFI	International Financial Institution
ILDP	Integrated Local Development Project
IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
IRH	Istanbul Regional Hub (UNDP)
LG	Local Government
LSU	Local Self-Government Unit
MDB	Multilateral Development Bank
LG	Local Government
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
LSU	Local Self-Government Unit
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina
MICS 6	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OT	Operation Teams
ProDoc	Project Document
RCC	Regional Cooperation Council
RCO	UN Resident Coordinator's Office
RIA	Rapid Integration Assessment
RS	Republika Srpska
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SDG FF	Sustainable Development Goals Financing Framework
SEE	South East Europe
SDG BPA	SDG Business Pioneer Award
SPI	Social Protection and Inclusion
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UN RC	United Nations Resident Coordinator

UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNRISD	United Nations Research Institute for Social
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
VNR	Voluntary National Review / Voluntary Review
WB	World Bank
WG	Working Group

Introduction and Project Description

“Translating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina into sustainable and inclusive growth” (SDG2BiH) Programme is a successor to the SDG Roll-Out and Private Sector Support Project. The SDG2BiH is financed by Sweden and implemented by UNDP in partnership with UNICEF and UN Women under the United Nations’ overall support extended to the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) to implement the SDG Framework in BiH.

The overall objective of the Programme is to contribute to accelerated achievement of SDGs in BiH by supporting governance systems and private sector engagement towards green and inclusive growth. The Programme is thus expected to support the authorities in BiH in their efforts to advance their progress towards the achievement of sustainable development targets defined in the SDG Framework in BiH. The Programme is organized around two mutually reinforcing outcomes:

- **Outcome 1:** Authorities at state, entity and Brčko District BiH levels effectively work on planning, implementing, monitoring, and reporting on the SDG Framework in BiH and foster development partnerships.
- **Outcome 2:** Cantonal and local governments actively contribute to implementation of the SDG Framework in BiH.

This Programme engage and support a wide range of stakeholders in BiH, primarily governments and socio-economic stakeholders and strengthen their capacities for systemic implementation of the SDG Framework in BiH which is a pre-requisite to the attainment of the SDG targets in the country.

The Programme aims to strengthen the ability of governance systems in the country for planning, financing and implementation of activities towards the SDGs and will support connecting public and private finances with a view of fostering SDG commitments, fostering smart and green growth, while at the same time contributing to creating a society of equal opportunities. The stakeholders in the country are supported in kickstarting the transition towards circular and low-carbon economy by providing relevant data and analysis, promotion of circular business models, capacity development and knowledge sharing support.

Concrete changes will be driven by piloting SDG localization at the cantonal and local levels. This will involve raising awareness and building the capacities of local stakeholders, supporting and preparing specific projects that will improve people's lives, and showing how lower levels of government can help achieve the SDGs, with a special focus on ensuring no one is left behind. By empowering vulnerable population groups, as drivers of solutions in their communities, the effectiveness and needs-orientation of local governance systems will be enhanced, and human capital investments increased.

Building on the previous interventions focused on the private sector and other stakeholders on sustainable development and the SDGs, further engagement and cooperation of the private sector and other stakeholders will accelerate domestication of SDG targets and maximize results.

The SDG2BiH will last 36 months, from April 2022 to March 2025. Though the SDG2BiH is managed and implemented by UNDP, two specific sub-activities are implemented by UNICEF and UN Women.

Executive summary

Key Objectives and Intended Outcomes

Main objectives of the Programme for this reporting period were to strengthen the capacities of governments and institutions at all levels in BiH to integrate and localize the SDG Framework in BiH, introduce and pilot new financial mechanisms/approaches for financial instruments and engage stakeholders, including the private sector, in sustainable development initiatives. The Programme aimed to enhance tracking and implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). The intended outcomes include improved SDG data collection, adoption of key policy documents, increased awareness and engagement in SDG activities, and the presentation of BiH's progress of implementation of Agenda 2030 on the global stage.

Key Achievements and Activities

Presentation of the Second BiH Voluntary National Review (VNR):

- The second BiH VNR was presented to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York on July 14, 2023. The VNR was prepared by the SDG Council in BiH with technical, logistical, and expert support from the Programme.
- The Programme provided support to the BiH delegation, led by the SDG Council in BiH, in organization of side events (first time BiH actively organized side events at HLPF) with various UN member states and key agencies, including Serbia, Indonesia, Sida, and Western Balkan neighbors, focusing on SDG financing and experience sharing.

Data Optimization and Indicator Tracking:

- Supported the SDG Council in BiH to optimize and collect data for tracking SDG indicators through research and indicator revision support, leading to improved accuracy and comprehensiveness of SDG data.

Capacity Building and Workshops:

- Organized 10 workshops to strengthen government planning systems for SDG implementation, monitoring, and reporting in FBiH, RS, and BD BiH, involving 200+ participants.

Leave No One Behind (LNOB) small grant scheme:

- Implementation of 9 Leave No One Behind (LNOB) projects in Local Governments and 5 in Cantons is in progress. Total value of projects is BAM 2,156,188.00 and co-funding by LGs and Cantons is 34% or BAM 731,244.00.
- These projects aim to create an inclusive local environment, improve social services, establish cross-sector coordination mechanisms, enhance service providers' capacities, improve the business environment, align educational systems with labor market demands, and raise public awareness on inclusion and equal opportunities, benefiting 43,772 direct beneficiaries, including 47% women and 5,644 children (45% girls).

Local Government and Canton Engagement:

- Enhanced capacities of LGs, cantons, and BD BiH to operationalize SDG-aligned strategies. Engaged expert consultants to assist partners in aligning work plans with SDGs and developing local development strategies.
- Provided support in identifying project ideas and preparing technical documentation for 11 large-scale infrastructure projects.

Parliamentary Engagement:

- Provided expert support in adoption of Rulebook changes for both houses of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH to integrate SDGs into their mandate and supported the extension of the mandate of Tuzla Canton (TC) Assembly to sustainable development oversight through Rulebook revision.
- Hosted the first-ever conference on SDGs in the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH, highlighting the Assembly's role in SDG implementation.

Private Sector Engagement and SDG Business Pioneers Award:

- Launched a circular maturity web platform and mapped circular economy opportunities.
- Achieved a 200% increase in interest of private companies for the fifth generation of the SDG Business Pioneers in BiH.
- The Award enhanced media coverage, networking opportunities, and promoted annual SDG reporting, increasing BiH companies' membership in the UN Global Compact.
- Promoted the role of BiH financial institutions in supporting SDG implementation and sustainable business transitions.

SDG Week 2023:

- Hosted 17 events showcasing BiH's commitment to sustainable development, featuring examples of SDG localization strategies (from Sweden and internationally), workshops and conferences on social inclusion, healthy aging, human rights for persons with disabilities, SDG financing, circular economy, women's empowerment, and digital transformation.
- Engaged youth with a concert of a regional popstar promoting recycling awareness.

Institutional Support:

- SDG Financing Framework in BiH, prepared in consultation with BiH SDG financing working group, submitted and formally adopted by the Governments of RS and FBiH, the BD Government, and finally by the CoM BiH.
- RS Social and Child Protection Strategy (2023 – 2029) adopted in December 2023.
- Supported the BiH Agency for Statistics to optimize data collection for the VNR, enhancing the reliability of reported data.
- Provided technical assistance to partner cantons and BD BiH in preparing development reports, guidelines, three-year action plans, mid-term plans, annual work plans, and annual reports that reflect the SDGs.
- Provided support for drafting a By-law on Regulatory Impact Assessment to Una-Sana Canton.
- Provided support for revision of the regulatory framework on allocation of public funds (grants and subsidies) in Tuzla Canton, contributing to enhanced transparency and efficiency.
- Supported development of an interactive Map of Rights and Services for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly in the Sarajevo Canton.

Visibility:

- 111 media mentions in 2024 and 46 media mentions in the second half of 2023.
- Used influencers to promote flagship activities and campaigns (Google Ads campaign 1,500,000 impressions on SDG BPA banner).

Challenges and Next Steps

Challenges:

- Data collection and indicator tracking remain areas needing continuous improvement.
- Following timeframe of local projects implementation due to complex tendering procedures in the field.

Next Steps:

- Continue to support data optimization efforts and improve the tracking of SDG indicators.
- FBiH/RS Parliament engagement.
- Organization of the SDG Business Pioneers and SDG Week 2024.
- Finalization of small grant scheme for cantonal and local governments aiming at implementation of the SDG Framework in BiH.
- Finalize and learn from tailored support to BiH subnational governments to enhance their capacity for new financial mechanisms targeting local government digitalization, green transition and circular economy, and research and development.
- Strengthen partnerships with international and local organizations to enhance collaborative efforts.

Overview of the Programme results in the reporting period (July 2023 – June 2024)

Outcome 1: Authorities at state, entity and Brčko District BiH levels effectively work on planning, implementing, monitoring, and reporting on the SDG Framework in BiH and foster development partnerships.

Output 1.1. The SDG steering body and institutional partners at state, entity and Brčko District levels are equipped with knowledge, capacities and tools for synchronized and effective planning, financing, monitoring, and reporting on the implementation of the SDG Framework in BiH

1.1.1. Support to effective functioning of the SDG Council in BiH

The Programme inherited the task from the SDG Roll-Out Project to support effective functioning of the SDG Council in BiH. The support includes provision of the secretariat for the meetings of the SDG Council, assistance in preparation of the Annual report to the CoM BiH, preparation of VNRs as well as support to the process of consultation with all relevant stakeholders in the process. The Programme also provides active support in regional and global participation and promotion of the SDG Council in BiH.

Bosnia and Herzegovina at the High-Level Political Forum 2023

One of the biggest results in this reporting period is the presentation of the second BiH VNR on the implementation of Agenda 2030 at the HLPF in New York on 14 July 2023. Alongside 38 other countries, the VNR was presented by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of BiH, H.E. Josip Brkić, who emphasized significant efforts to improve vertical cooperation between different levels of the government in BiH and enhance the exchange of experience and lessons in development, particularly among local communities. The Q&A session was led by H.E. Miloš Prica as a representative of the SDG Council in BiH and the SDG Focal Point at the HLPF.

The presentation and an original introductory video (prepared with support of the Programme) were very well-received, earning the BiH delegation a big applause from the audience. During the Q&A session after the presentation, the BiH delegation received questions about the importance of SDG financing mechanisms (Slovakia), SDG localisation (Switzerland), inclusion of CSOs (Montenegro) and status of women and minority groups (Women's group).



A scene from the introductory video



With support of the Programme, in partnership with Serbia, Sweden/Sida, Indonesia, and UNDP, BiH delegation organized, the first time ever, side-event at the HLPF focusing on financial frameworks and innovative financing policies. The event, held at UN Headquarters in NY on July 18, 2023, was led by the Permanent Mission of BiH to the UN, moderated by H.E. Zlatko Lagumdžija, featuring high-ranking government representatives from various countries, including Serbia's Minister of Finance, Senior Advisor to the Minister of National Development Planning for Social Affairs and Poverty Reduction of Indonesia, Assistant Director General of Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, and more. Among other issues, the meeting outlined importance of partnerships (especially engaging the IFIs, MDB, and bilateral donors) as critical in meeting the SDG agenda. The panellists agreed that achieving SDGs is an investment agenda into both physical infrastructure and human capital. Transformation of existing approaches and instruments is critical to mobilize resources and unlock financing flows for sustainable development - both public-private and domestic-international.

With support of the Programme, the Permanent Mission of BiH to UN and the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS jointly organized a Sub-regional meeting on the implementation of the Agenda 2030 in the Western Balkans titled "Accelerating resilience and growth". This was the third meeting organized with the aim of consolidating cooperation in the Western Balkans for sustainable development. The first one, namely the Regional Conference on the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, was organized in Sarajevo in 2021. Montenegro organized the second meeting during the HLPF in 2023. This meeting provided an opportunity for discussion of prospects of enhancing regional cooperation in advancing sustainable development. It was also an opportunity to share innovative ideas and follow up actions leading to more resilient growth in the region. Representatives from Albania, BiH, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia were either high-ranking government officials from their respective capitals or the permanent representatives to the UN.

As an outcome of the meeting, several important processes and agendas were discussed including the SDG Financing Framework (SDG FF) in BiH and Montenegro SDG Acceleration Fund. The participants agreed on the importance of full alignment of the EU accession and SDG processes as well as integration of the SDGs in strategic documents. It was universally acknowledged that prioritizing the private sector is essential, emphasizing the incorporation of sustainability into the business models of private companies (illustrated by Serbia's development of the SDG investor map). The meeting also outlined critical areas of attention to move forward. They include gender and youth mainstreaming, innovative financing for the SDGs and the private sector/IFIs engagement; brain drain and depopulation; digitalization as an enabler of green transition; and labour mobility.

Moreover, the Programme team used the platform that HLPF provides to have a discussion with the SDG coordinator at the Government of Italy on possible exchange of experience between BiH and Italy, particularly in

the realms of SDG localization and policy coherence. This dialogue led to the involvement of Ms. Mara Cossu and Ms. Ronvaux Isabelle from the General Directorate of Circular Economy in Italy as panellists on the opening event of the SDG Week 2023, exploring on SDG Localization. Ms. Cossu and Ms. Isabelle, alongside Mr. Lorenzo Donatelli, First Secretary at the Embassy of Italy in BiH, shared insights into good practices from Italy.

On the fringes of the HLPF, H.E. Josip Brkić, H.E. Miloš Prica, and Mr. Zoran Zeljko (Director of Directorate for Economic Planning) met with the UNDP Regional Director Ms. Ivana Živković. The meeting took place at the premises of the UNDP in NY. UNDP Regional Director reiterated UNDP's support to the SDG Council in the VNR's preparation but also more broadly in the SDG achievement and development of the SDG FF for BiH. H.E. Brkić underlined that supporting this work and the SDG Council remains a key priority on his political agenda. Despite financial challenges, the CoM in BiH provides full political support to the implementation of the SDGs. This commitment was evident in adoption of the SDG FF for BiH by the CoM later in 2024.

In a separate process, the Roadmap for preparing the 2026-2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) in BiH identified the SDG Council in BiH as a key stakeholder and close collaborator. The Roadmap emphasizes coordination with the SDG Council in BiH, acknowledging its formal mandate, its representation of institutions leading strategic planning processes at state, entity, and Brcko District levels, and its political connections with the executive branches of government. The UNSDCF, which integrates activities of all UN agencies in the country and promotes partnerships supporting the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, relies heavily on the SDGs Council's central role in both drafting and implementation. Given that the UNSDCF serves as a central planning document and implementation tool for all UN agencies, the SDGs Council's involvement is crucial for strategic partnership and collaboration with authorities and other partners at the country level.

1.1.2. Strengthening governments' planning systems for effective implementation of the SDGs, monitoring and reporting

Building on previous efforts, cooperation with the General Secretariat of the Government of RS has continued through support for implementing the SDGs Framework in BiH and organizing the third and fourth meetings of the Strategic Planning Practitioners' Network of RS. The third meeting gathered representatives of 15 LGs, while the fourth gathered line ministries' representatives. The importance of drafting strategic planning documents, budgets, and action plans based on the SDG Framework in BiH was reiterated throughout the workshops, and participants were instructed on how to access the relevant materials and use the tools at their disposal to do this effectively. The workshop focused on



capacitating LGs was held in Banja Luka on October 26-27 2023. It gathered 23 participants, while the ministries were engaged through a workshop in Doboj held on 4 - 5 of June 2024, in which 18 ministry representatives participated. These workshops fulfill commitment made in the first VNR BiH presented in 2019 on alignment of strategic documents with the SDG Framework in BiH. The workshops also provided a platform for LSUs and



ministries representatives to cooperate and exchange good practices in the field of strategic planning at the local or sectoral level.

During this reporting period, the Programme assisted the RS Government in preparing the new RS 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy. Following the RS Government's decision to initiate the Strategy process, the Executive Team formed by the RS Government continued to guide its development, supported by a team of expert consultants hired by the Programme. These consultants aided the Executive Team in creating methodological guidance and an action plan for the Strategy's preparation activities. Additionally, at the direct request of RS Government partners, the Programme provided further support by engaging sectoral consultants specializing in good governance, smart economy, and sustainable development. This consultancy team became fully operational in the fourth quarter of 2023.

The Executive Team prepared a draft situation analysis and started the process of internal consultations and approval within the RS Government. The strategic platform document is expected to be ready for approval by July 2024, after which the operational part of the strategy will be prepared, with the overall strategy finalized by the end of 2024. The approved RS 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy will be accessible on a web platform developed with the Programme's support.

The Programme provided technical capacity support to the General Secretariat of Republika Srpska for more effective participation in global discussions, sharing of best practices, enhancing international cooperation, allowing them to access international funds, and ensure proficient engagement with global stakeholders and partners.

In the FBiH, the Programme provided support in the process of analytical review related to the implementation of the new regulatory framework for development planning. For this purpose, Federal Institute for Development Planning started consultations with all three administrative levels in FBiH, across three workshops separately for LGs, cantons, and FBiH level. The LGs workshop was attended by 26 participants, the workshop for cantons by 18, and the one organized for development planners on the level of FBiH by 21 participants. Upon request, the Programme provided support in printing and dissemination of the FBiH Development Strategy 2021 – 2027. Complementary to this activity, the document of analysis of application of the FBiH regulatory framework for development programming was developed, and the proposal of adjustments to the relevant bylaws. Additional support is provided to the Federal Institute for Development Programming in analyzing the functional alignment of ToRs and posts in the Institute and their systematization, ensuring a concerted effort towards the achievement, monitoring, and reporting Development Strategy and SDGs.

During this reporting period, the Programme also provided support for the Unit for Strategic Planning in of the General Secretariat of the Brčko District (BD BiH) in implementation a new regulatory framework for 27 strategic planning units. The activity resulted in the preparation of mid-term working plans 2024 – 2026 and annual working plans for 2024, which are adopted and published on their web sites. In addition, the project supported preparation of the 2022 strategy annual report and Action Plan (three-year plan). All prepared documents are aligned with the SDGs Framework in BiH.

In July 2023, the Assembly of the BD BiH adopted a Law on the Adjustments and Additions of the BD BiH Law on Budget. After the amendments to the BD BiH Law on Budget came into force, SDG2BiH provided support to the General Secretariat of the Government of BD BiH in preparation of amendments on rules of content and methodology of creation, monitoring, and implementation supervision system of strategic and implementation documents. After the prescribed procedure for the bylaw's preparation, the Government of BD BiH adopted it in December 2023.

1.1.3. Supporting governments in translating selected development accelerators into action

Social Protection Strategy development (UNICEF)

During this reporting period, both entity-level Social and Child Protection Strategies were passed for adoption. RS Strategy (2023 – 2029) was adopted in December 2023, and FBiH Social and Child Protection Strategy (2023 – 2030) has been reviewed and validated by all 10 Cantons, currently pending the FBiH Government approval. The FBiH Ministry of Labor and Social Policy organized a series of promotional events during the second half of 2023 - in Sarajevo, Tuzla, Mostar, Zenica, and Bihać, at which the strategic objectives and measures from the Strategy were presented and discussed with a large group of stakeholders. The FBiH Strategy outlines 3 key strategic goals: 1) poverty reduction, 2) addressing social exclusion, and 3) strengthening the social protection system, while RS opted for a more conservative approach where the strategic goals are aligned with the system strengthening approach: 1) enhance social service provision for the most vulnerable groups and ensure better targeting of social protection beneficiaries, 2) improve family and child protection, with a focus on preventive measures, and 3) strengthen the capacity of social, child and family protection systems and promote cross-sector cooperation.

The Strategies represent a pivotal cornerstone for long-term planning, resource allocation, and needs-based system strengthening that encompasses several key areas for holistic investments: poverty, social inclusion, cash benefits reforms, social service strengthening, disability assessment reform, as well as deinstitutionalization elements with focus on the most vulnerable groups.

Capacity development for designing care economy policies (UN WOMEN)

During the reporting period, UN Women built on the findings of the Baseline Study on the Care Economy in BiH, published in 2023, to support the development of care-friendly policies. This initiative represents a tangible effort to address some of the key challenges identified in the study, providing streamlined and accessible services to vulnerable populations, and alleviating the burden of unpaid care work typically shouldered by women. To promote the development of care infrastructures, and the recognition, reduction, and redistribution of unpaid gendered care work, the activities were undertaken across three pillars.

1. Support to normative and policy framework changes to better integrate care into laws and government priorities



Currently, in BiH, care remains largely a private, family matter, with weak infrastructure and few policies targeted at increasing the accessibility of care. Notably, access to childcare remains lower than the demand, and elderly care remains scarce outside of institutions¹. In order to develop the infrastructure and change social norms around care, governments should adopt laws and policy frameworks which integrate care and support the development of gender-sensitive care practices. UN Women has provided technical support to government partners in this process. Notably, in the FBiH, UN Women is providing comments on the draft Law on Social Services, particularly regarding its encompassing of care-related services, and its gender inclusivity. UN Women is also working on providing comments for the RS's second strategy on Women's

¹ Baseline Study on Care Economy in Bosnia and Herzegovina, UN Women, 2023

Entrepreneurship Development, to consider care as a barrier to women's entrepreneurship. UN Women has also developed a Memorandum of Understanding with Municipality Center - Sarajevo, signed on 20 May 2024, regarding the implementation of activities/policies/programmes related to the care economy, the promotion of care economy through financial support for fathers using parental leave, as well as through advocacy activities and promotion of parental leave and the care economy within the "Nemam ti kad" campaign.

To guide further changes needed in legislative and socio-economic, UN Women developed analyses of the existing legislation and policies, as well as financing and social infrastructures. This analysis, informed by the recommendations of the Baseline study, also included main opportunities and avenues for change to strengthen care availability.



2. Development of pilot models to increase care accessibility

Aligned with the recommendations of the Baseline Study, UN Women has been developing pilot care models with the overall objective of improving care services, improving social protection benefits for care, enhancing leave policies and flexible working arrangements and increasing awareness around unpaid care work. In the first half of 2024, UN Women developed the interactive Map of Rights and Services for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly in the Sarajevo Canton. On 17th of April 2024, Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Sarajevo Canton to publish and integrate this tool in its portfolio. This map will allow persons with disabilities, the elderly and their caregivers to access all information related to their rights in one place.



UN Women is also cooperating with a number of institutions to set up the "gerentodomacice" model, both in the FBiH and in the RS. This model aims to train long-term unemployed women as caretakers for the elderly. It serves the dual purpose of reintegrating women who have long been unemployed by training them to be caretakers. Additionally, it addresses the growing need for home care services for the elderly, especially relevant in the context of an ageing population.

UN Women is currently developing business models with all relevant partners to pilot this model. In the FBiH, UN Women is consulting with care-providing organizations such as the Red Cross and Hilfswerk and working alongside government institutions such as the FBiH Employment Agency and the FBiH Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. In the RS, consultations are taking place with the Ministry of Economy and Entrepreneurship, the Ministry of Youth, Family and Sports, as well as the Ministry of European Integration and International Cooperation.

UN Women has also been meeting with the Mayor and other counterparts in Bijeljina, a local community partner to the Programme, to support their development of care services and to cooperate further on the implementation of care economy models.

3. Awareness-raising

In November 2023, a thematic session focusing on "The Economy of Care and Women's Unpaid Work" was organized in the Parliamentary Assembly of FBiH, in collaboration with the Parliamentary Commission for Gender Equality and the Gender Center of the FBiH and supported by various non-governmental organizations. The session brought together experts and stakeholders to discuss strategies and policies for acknowledging and addressing women's unpaid work, a critical aspect of the care economy.

At the international level, the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, with UN Women support, actively participated in the Global Care Alliance, organized in September 2023 by ILO, OHCHR, and UN Women in New York, marking the first ever International Care Day event. Their participation highlighted the government's commitment to gender equality and underscored the government's dedication to working alongside the international community to create a fairer opportunity for women's economic empowerment.

In April 2024, UN Women organized two policy dialogues, one in Sarajevo and one in Banja Luka, to present key analyses on the care economy and pave the way forward for change. These meetings gathered numerous stakeholders from government institutions, international partners and civil society, to identify synergies and avenues for new policies and infrastructure. UN Women will also be present at the Fair of Social Services organized by Municipality Center Sarajevo, in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, Social Policy, Displaced Persons and Refugees of the Sarajevo Canton. This fair will be organized on the 5th of July 2024 and UN Women will present its work on care and its collaboration with government stakeholders.

Poll – How much time do you spend on care work?



A first "Nemam ti kad" campaign was run in 2023. The company engaged to support awareness raising activities of the Baseline Study won first place in the Public Relations category at the No Limit BH Advertising Festival for its campaign organized under the Programme. "Nemam ti kad" (I do not have time) campaign targeted the public and key decision makers to raise awareness on the importance of addressing unpaid care work in the country. The golden award signals the success of this campaign. The campaign was renewed in 2024. Accompanying messages were #zaslužujembolje and #budimoradnopravni. This campaign continues efforts to raise awareness of the importance of the care economy in BiH. The policy

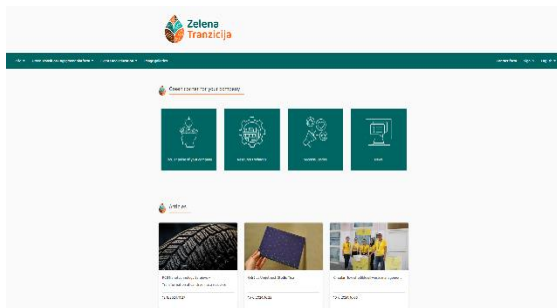
dialogues, organized in Sarajevo and Banja Luka, were bolstered by robust media coverage. To encourage public discussion on the unequal distribution of work between men and women and the fairer division of roles in households and communities, social media was utilized, and collaborations with influencers and artists were established. The care economy, its potential for economic growth in BiH through the reduction of unpaid work, and the socio-economic and legislative initiatives that can lead to improvements in the care economy in BiH were just some of the topics covered in both traditional and digital media during the campaign period. The media provided significant support by attending campaign events and through subsequent reporting and media appearances. There were a total of 78 media posts.



The “Care Economy” campaign #NemamTiKad was implemented on social media as well. Various visuals and illustrations, as well as short video materials, were created with the aim of raising public awareness about the importance and potential of the care economy in BiH and the unequal distribution of work between women and men. The campaign also aimed to encourage discussion and changes towards a fairer division of roles in households and communities and to reduce unpaid care work, which is most often performed by women. Through social media, the public was also informed about the initiatives and models for improving the care economy in BiH that UN Women BiH is working on with its partners. To support the campaign, UN Women collaborated with influencers, which increased its reach.

Green Transition/Circular Economy Web Platform

During this reporting period, the Programme finalized the Green Transition/Circular Economy [Web Platform](#), a comprehensive platform for sharing news and practices related to green transition and circular economy.



The platform has undergone multiple adaptations, to reorient it from platform dedicated to only circular economy and to connect it to the emerging Green Transition Portfolio, and its pillars (Circular Economy, Decarbonisation and Climate Resilience, Depollution and Biodiversity and Nature). The ultimate goal of the transformed web platform is to serve as a Green Transition Engagement Platform, connecting various stakeholders in a joint goal towards greener, circular and sustainable lifestyles.

The Programme engaged a Content Manager for the web platform, who delivered a number of appealing articles promoting the best practices from BiH, region and Europe, aiming to bring green transition and circular economy closer to the platform users.

One of the key components of the platform will be circular economy maturity and circularity assessment tool, which will be promoted through databases of companies, the social media channels and with the support of state and entity chambers of commerce. This tool will allow companies to assess their:

- circularity - defined as a level of circular economy performance of the company concerning the maximum performance the company can achieve, and
- maturity - defined as the extent to which the company carries out in a systematic and documented way those activities that involve circular economy or that can favour its implementation.

Platform was launched in the first half of June 2024 and promoted through social media and relevant Programme partners.

Mapping circular economy opportunities

The Programme has completed activities aimed at supporting governments in initiating the transition to a circular/green economy by mapping circular economy opportunities for two key industries (construction and packaging). In the first part of this assignment, the Programme, with the support of a Service Provider, conducted comprehensive assessments of the circularity of construction and packaging sectors in BiH. This process involved extensive consultations with institutional representatives, the private sector, and chambers of commerce. The resulting reports encompassed several key components: an analysis of the imperative of transition of selected sectors to circular economy, an overview of policy landscape in both the EU and BiH, an assessment of the current state, trends and specific needs of the construction and packaging industries in BiH concerning circular economy practices. Additionally, the reports included findings from a survey conducted among private sector entities, examples of good practices in EU and BiH, identified needs in related to education, research, and innovation, SWOT analysis, and set of recommendations for circular transition.

In the second part of the assignment, the Service Provider delivered two comprehensive trainings of advanced complexity for institutional partners and chambers of commerce on both BiH and entity levels. First training focused on strategies, case studies, institutional support needed for the circular transition in construction and packaging sectors and business improvement through the application of circular economy and resource valorization practices. Second training provided overview on EU and BiH regulatory framework and their impact on manufacturing companies, progress, and trends in business operations in these two sectors, construction and renovation of buildings in circular economy, circular design of packaging, and CBAM reporting.



Through very active discussions, lectures, field visits to companies implementing circular practices, and group exercises, participants gained new knowledge and broaden their skills and knowledge in the area of circular economy in construction and packaging sectors.

Circular Accelerator

In March 2024, the Programme initiated the process of contracting Service Provider for the design and implementation of the Circular Accelerator for private sector companies. The aim of this activity is to develop and pilot a hands-on technical support approach to private-sector development, which helps to enhance skills, business models and solutions that are grounded on the circular economy principles. Furthermore, the programme aims to raise awareness of and strengthen capacities of the private sector as well as knowledge and skills in the area of sustainable, green, and circular economy.

Parallel with the process of contracting Service Provider, Programme launched a public call for the SMEs to apply for participation in the Circular Accelerator. Evaluation of received applications is currently ongoing.

Progress in engaging and capacitating parliaments at all levels for accelerated sustainable development based on the SDGs Framework has been considerable in this reporting period. With the assistance of the Programme, changes to the Rulebooks of both the House of Peoples and the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH have been brought forth and are pending adoption in their respective assemblies (the changes have already been approved by the Constitutional-Legal Committee). Specifically, the mandate of the Joint Commission on Economic Reforms and Development has been modified in both rulebooks to include sustainable development oversight, a change that has been formally adopted by the Commission itself. Support given by the SDG2BiH is the first of its kind UNDP has provided to the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH. Namely, UNDP has engaged in one-off partnerships in event organization, but it is a first that a Programme established cooperation for the full integration of sustainable development in the work of parliamentary body.



18

Assembly of BiH. The conference brought together a diverse array of stakeholders, including government officials, policymakers, and international partners, who engaged in dialogues on integrating sustainable development issues into legislative and budgetary frameworks, as well as the direct linkages between the European Union agenda and the 2030 Agenda. Dr. Jakob Granit, Director General of SIDA, emphasized the significance of Agenda 2030, highlighting its collective ownership and the need for active participation from various sectors. He praised the strong bilateral relations and contributions from Sweden towards sustainable development and acknowledged the support of UN agencies.



Other speakers included representatives from the BiH Parliamentary Assembly, the EU Delegation, the UN Resident Coordinator Office (UN RCO), the Directorate for European Integrations by the CoM of BiH, the SDG Council in BiH, and members of the parliamentary assemblies of Sweden and Serbia. They provided participants with an opportunity to engage in an exchange of experiences. All reiterated the importance of focused and vigorous action towards a systematic approach to SDGs and highlighted the crucial role the BiH Parliamentary Assembly plays in this process.

The Programme also supports the revision of the Rulebook of the Commission for Economy and Economic and Fiscal Policies of the Assembly of the Tuzla Canton (TC) – one of the partner cantons of the programme. The text was

reviewed by the SDG2BiH team, the Assembly representatives, and government representatives, and is pending adoption by the Assembly. The same type of support was discussed and offered to the representatives of the West Herzegovina (WH) Cantonal Assembly. The WH Assembly counterparts shared the need for a complete revision of their Rulebook, and it was agreed that support to this process will be considered by the SDG2BiH upon receipt of their formal request. The Programme offered support in sustainable development integration into the work of the Assembly of the Una-Sana Canton as well, but more detailed arrangements are yet to be discussed.

1.1.5. Strengthening state and entity statistical institutions' capacities for monitoring achievements towards SDG targets

Capacity building and optimisation of SDG web platform

To monitor and report the implementation of Agenda 2030 in BiH effectively, having accessible data and relevant statistics is crucial. During this reporting period, the Programme supported the Agency for Statistics of BiH (BHAS) by optimizing its SDG web portal (<https://sdg.bhas.gov.ba/>) and updating all available data, as well as providing training for BHAS employees. Additionally, the Programme facilitated working meetings between BHAS and the SDG Council in BiH to discuss data-sharing protocols, ensuring the provision of high-quality data for annual reports, the VNR, and other documents.

Provision of relevant, up to date and high-quality data is vital in the preparation of annual reports to the CoM BiH, VNR, and other documents.



In the first half of 2024, the SDGs Council conducted a revision of the SDG indicators on which they are reporting BiH's progress. The SDG Council members proposed and endorsed revisions to this list, based on availability of statistical information. To that end, SDG2BiH supported their meetings, but also initiated a process of conducting a nation-wide household survey on safety, integrity, participation, and public services in BiH that will be analyzed on a municipality level, per request of the Directorate for Economic Planning in front of the SDG Council. The survey will give statistical information which will enable tracking of the following SDG indicators:

Indicator 16.1.4: Proportion of the population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live after dark.

Indicator 16.5.1: Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months.

Indicator 16.6.2: Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience with public services in the three service areas of healthcare, education, and government services.

Indicator 16.7.2: Proportion of the population that believes decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by age, sex, disability, and population group.

Since no adequate SDG indicator for measuring access to and satisfaction with public transport has been found, and the SDG Council considers measuring this to be of utmost relevance, the research incorporates questions on speed, availability, usage of, and satisfaction with public transport.

Output 1.2: Public financing instruments at the entity and/or cantonal level sustainably reinforce the achievement of the SDGs in selected priority areas, including through partnerships with the private sector

The key result during this reporting period is the formal adoption of the SDG Financing Framework in BiH (SDG FFF) by the Government of RS and FBiH, the BD Government and finally adopted by the CoM BiH in June 2024.

The process gained traction through preparation of a comprehensive Development Finance Assessment that provided important insights for an SDG Financing Framework (SDG FF) in BiH. Through these strategic activities the Programme actively contributed and supported the Joint SDG Fund initiative “Towards the SDG Financing Ecosystem in BiH” which led to further support systemic implementation of Agenda 2030 in BiH in this field.



The SDG FF in BiH was prepared in consultation with BiH SDG financing working group (WG) that includes representatives of ministries of finance and other key state, entity, and BD BiH ministries. Grounded on the comprehensive diagnostic, financial costing, scenarios, and prioritization, the SDG FF defines a set of concrete short-term and long-term policies and financial instruments for the acceleration of SDG achievements in priority areas, along with clearly defined roles and responsibilities of a range of institutional stakeholders. After finalization, the SDG FF in BiH was submitted and formally adopted by the Government of RS and FBiH, the BD Government and finally adopted by the CoM BiH in June 2024.

As the FBiH and RS adopted the SDG FF in the late 2023, the Programme in 2024 launched the limited technical support for entity governments aiming to support early preparation for the phase related to **the conducting the feasibility studies for the two key financial instruments, namely, the Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) and SDG Bonds**. The Programme, for this purpose, engaged group of experts (two International Experts and a national expert) to provide technical support for the preparation of the proposed approach, including for the development of the specific set of Terms of References for the feasibility’s studies in line with internationally recognized methodologies and financial and other standards. Currently, the experts are designing proposed approaches that need to be endorsed through governments WG before the ToRs development. It is expected that the envisaged preparatory activities will be finalized by the end of July 2024, while the process of conducting of the feasibility studies is expected to begin in the late August 2024 (with the expected duration of 4-6 months for SIF and 3-4 months for SDG bonds).

During the reporting period, the Programme started with tailored support to BiH subnational governments aiming to strengthen their capacity for introduction of new financial mechanisms for concentrated and targeted support to (i) **local level governments digitalization**; (ii) **green transition and circular economy**, and (iii) **research & development** through joint efforts by government, the academy, and private sector. These were defined as main areas that can leverage additional finance for the SDGs from alternative sources.

In this field of intervention, the primary objective of the Programme is **to incentivize and support relevant government institutions to introduce new and innovative financial mechanisms** that support SDG priority areas. For this to be achieved, the Programme has been supporting target governments with the “know how” through digital and other solutions (already tested through earlier UNDP BiH interventions). Using this approach, the Programme has been supporting government institutions to plan, initiate and provide targeted, concentrated, and transparent support to end beneficiaries. The table below provides key information that illustrate the pilot financial mechanisms supported by the Programme.



More specifically, in the priority area of digitalization, the Programme is working with the RS Agency for Information Communication Technologies and the FBiH Ministry of Justice to support digitalization of service in pilot local governments, thus creating a blueprint for scale up. In the area of green transition and the circular economy, support has been extended to the FBiH Ministry of Development, Entrepreneurship and Crafts (FMRPO). Additionally, in the area of research and development, the Programme is supporting the FBiH Ministry of Education and Science.



→ The Programme's support to the development of **"Grant Scheme for Strengthening the competitiveness of SMEs"** in FBiH is a strategic opportunity & tool for embedding a systemic "know-how" into developing a complex government grant scheme that offers incentives for green transition and circular economy. Furthermore, it envisages the support to the government partners for digitalization of grants scheme management; It explores the possibilities for collaboration and partnerships for sustainable financing of SMEs development initiatives. Lastly, demonstrating the FBiH experience may encourage other government levels to utilize the same approach & solutions while developing similar financial mechanisms for supporting green transition and circular economy in the coming years.



→ The Programme's support to piloting of a **"Digital transition scheme for digitalization of LG services"** at the entity level serves as a "proof of concept" in terms of (i) LGs' ability to adopt new digital solutions to enhance their openness, transparency, and effective service delivery through applied package of e-services; (ii) the government institution's ability to host a digital transformation scheme (in regard to identifying target LGs, conducting rapid e-readiness assessments, coordinating technical assistance to eligible LGs to establish e-services, and monitoring and reporting). In line with SDG FF, it will set up a systemic platform for further scale-up of e-services that municipalities provide to citizens and local business.



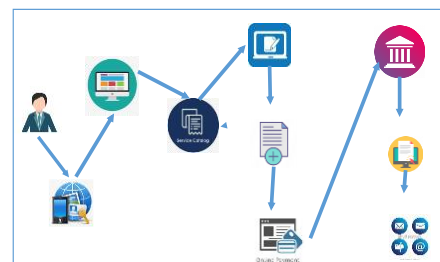
→ The Programme's support to the development of **"Joint Research & Development Grant scheme"** is a unique opportunity to support the R&D in FBiH through joint efforts by the government, academia, and private sector. It has two-fold, long term objectives: (i) to support the government partner in developing a financial mechanism for a concentrated, targeted, and transparent distribution of grants to support R&D projects; (ii) to utilize the pilot phase to develop a methodological approach that allows for a quick and effective replication in the future. Additionally, the pilot phase will be utilized to explore and call for possible partnerships for crowding-in external financial resources.

Supporting the **Grant Scheme for Strengthening the competitiveness of SMEs in FBiH**, the Programme provides direct technical assistance to the partner institution, FMRPO, for development of the Public Call Guidelines and supporting documentation (in line with standards for development of the complex grant scheme). Programme went through a consultative process to examine the Ministry's needs, and afterwards signed Letter of Intent for Cooperation. Through this grant scheme, FMRPO will provide financial grants to SMEs in the amount of 18 million BAM (USD 9.9 million). Within this activity, the Programme provided technical support and developed a tailored software solution for the digitalization of grant scheme management processes. Additionally, the support included delivering tailored training for the Ministry's employees on using online platform for grants management. The



Programme also supported the partner institution in preparation of tailored info sessions for target private sector applicants to introduce them with the digital solution for grant management, and as well to inform, motivate and orientate them that the focus of the grant scheme is for supporting green and circular transition of the private sector. In the coming period, the Programme will continue to provide support to Ministry along all stages of the grant scheme process, through direct technical support, training and lesson learned sessions.

“The Digital transition scheme for digitalization of LG services”, is still in the preparatory phase. Currently there is an ongoing preparation of the technical specification and ToRs for engagement of a service provider for development of Digital Transition platform and complementary package of interventions. It is expected that the ToR will be finalized by July 2024, and concrete field-related support to the Agency will commence in August. However, for the similar Digital Grant Scheme envisaged to be supported in FBiH, the Programme is still in the process of consultation with the FBiH Ministry of Justice. It is expected that the support package the Ministry will be activated in August 2024. For both schemes, the period from September 2024 to February 2025 will be utilized to support incorporation of digital e-service in target LGs.



With regard to the **Joint Research & Development (R&D) Grant Scheme**, the Programme provides a financial grant for the R&D grant scheme rolled out in partnership with the FBiH Ministry of Education and Science, aimed at public and private universities and R&D institutes. The Programme’s financial grant support to the Ministry has leveraging importance as it, together with other crowded-in financial support, substantially increases the grant scheme ‘envelope’, allowing for larger number of scientific-research project to be supported by the scheme. The Programme has been actively engaged in development of a public call that is being prepared jointly with the Ministry. The development of the Public Call ensured that the selected beneficiaries would focus on the implementation of scientific and research projects with applicative industry potential. In the upcoming period, the Programme will continue to provide support to the Ministry along all stages of the grant scheme process, through overall guidance, focusing on capturing critical lessons learned that the partner Ministry could utilize for a quick, and effective replication of the grant scheme in the future.

Output 1.3. Advancing engagement of private sector and other stakeholders in sustainable development

Activities below focus on advancing the engagement of the private sector, but also of other relevant actors, in the implementation of Agenda 2030. The SDG Business Pioneers Award (SDG BPA) in BiH has evolved into a prominent tool for engagement of the private sector. This initiative is dedicated to promoting the significance of sustainability reporting, adhering to Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) standards, creating decent jobs, and reducing environmental impact within the private sector. The Programme has continued to effectively utilize the SDG Week in BiH as a nationally recognized platform for promotion of SDGs.

1.3.1. Engaging private sector to promote sustainable development

SDG Business Pioneers Award in BiH

The SDG BPA in BiH has grown into a flagship brand and an excellent private sector engagement instrument.

It is an annual activity which recognizes and accentuates the efforts of private sector companies related to achieving the SDGs in BiH as well as motivates new entrepreneurs in their quest to transform to more sustainable business models. Launched in 2019, the Award celebrated its fifth edition in 2023. During the reporting period, the Programme organized SDG BPA in BiH for 2023. The Award kept focus on the companies that create and retain decent jobs and actively reduce their environmental impact.

Each year, the SDG BPA highlights nine companies of various sizes: one company each from micro, small, medium, and large categories in the thematic areas of "People" and "Resource and Environment," along with the overall winner in both categories. The application process spans three months, after which an evaluation panel of

independent experts reviews the submissions according to GRI-based criteria. Upon completing their applications, companies receive blueprints for their annual sustainability reporting.



Following initial endeavors to raise awareness and actively engage the private sector in advancing the SDGs, exemplified by the organization of the 2023 SDG BPA, there has been a notable surge in private sector interest towards fostering sustainability within their operations. This shift is evidenced by the growing adoption of sustainable business models, alongside increased efforts in monitoring and reporting on sustainability initiatives. The application pool for the 2023 SDG BPA saw a marked increase, with a total of 114 companies submitting 180 applications during the three-month application period. The culmination of this effort was the celebratory event held at the Youth Theatre in Sarajevo on June 14, 2023, which brought together a diverse gathering of 200 participants representing institutions, businesses, civil society, public administration, academia, and financial institutions to honor and acknowledge the winners.

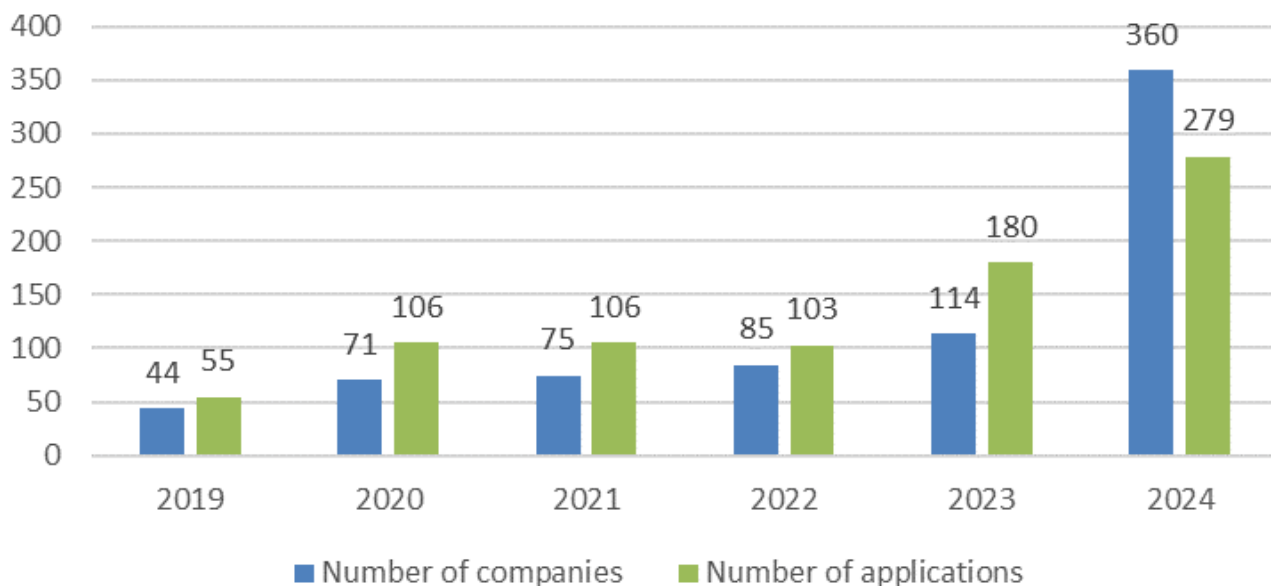
Focus of the SDG BPA is on the importance of private sector role in this context, including in terms of greening businesses, as well as innovation and new business models. Within the SDG BPA in 2023, e-Go Electric CarSharing - a new service was presented as new next sustainable solution in BiH. Also, vegan food that was made by company Zdravo d.o.o., (applicant in the SDG BPA in 2023), was served at the ceremony promoting sustainable consumption and innovative healthy and ecologically responsible food that has both significant sustainability and transformation potential. The Programme also promoted green environment with borrowed plants at the ceremony venue from another company that applied for the SDG BPA in 2023, GreenStyle Solutions d.o.o.

The ceremony was a carbon-positive event and the Programme purchased 200 trees for each participant at the ceremony via TvojCO2.ba after the event. This has offset the CO₂ emissions produced during the preparation and holding of the ceremony.



The SDG BPA in BiH has so far highlighted numerous examples of good practices – companies of different sizes and from different business sectors have proudly shared their valuable steps towards a more sustainable business. Some of them are GS-Tvornica mašina from Travnik, dm, Dekonta BH, SEEBA, Lanaco, ZEOS eko-sistem, Ministry of Programming, Heidelberg Materials Cement BH, Smrčak company and many others. Finally, through promotion of annual reporting on SDGs, an increase of BiH companies on the list of the members of the UN Global Compact is noticeable.

Number of applications for SDG Business Pioneers Award in BiH throughout the years



The call for applications for the 2024 SDG BPA in BiH was open from January 1 until March 15, 2024. We witnessed a remarkable surge in interest, with a total of 360 companies expressing their intent to apply—an impressive increase from the 114 applications received in 2023. These companies operate across various sectors and regions of BiH. Among the applicants, 28% are large and medium-sized enterprises, while the remaining 72% are small and micro-enterprises, reflecting the prevalent entrepreneurial landscape in the region.

The official partner for 2024 SDG BPA is the Foreign Trade Chamber of BiH. This partnership aims at improving cooperation and raising awareness of the importance of sustainable businesses, circular economy, digitalization and decarbonization in BiH. This partnership also enables localization of the SDG BPA, ensuring its methodology stays integrated in the existing country mechanisms in future.

The SDG BPA ceremony is publicized through mainstream media in BiH.



1.3.2. SDG Week in BiH and promotion of SDG localization

SDG Week in Bosnia and Herzegovina is an annual flagship activity aimed at promoting the SDGs and creating a society of equal opportunities.



This reporting period covers the fifth edition of SDG Week, held on October 9-13, 2023, with an overarching theme "Partnerships – Accelerators of Sustainable and Inclusive Development." In 2023, SDG Week featured 17 events hosting discussions led by local and foreign experts on inclusive, green, and fair development, representing 70% increase in activities compared to 2022, when 10 events were organized. The events aimed to engage a broad audience, particularly young people, policymakers, businesses, academia, innovators, civil society, and media from the Western Balkans and the EU. SDG Week included face-to-face events, conferences, workshops, online advocacy, and awareness campaigns, covering topics like financial investment, green transition, digital transformation, disability inclusion, and women's empowerment. The UN in BiH and the SDG Council in BiH were the strategic co-organizers, as in previous years.

Key Activities of the 2023 SDG Week in BiH:

- Opening Event: Focused on "SDG Localization," featuring representatives from Sweden, Albania, Serbia, and Italy sharing strategies for local sustainable development.
- UNICEF Workshop: Emphasized social inclusion in local social services.
- Healthy Aging Conference: Hosted by the Medical Faculty in Zenica, highlighting challenges faced by older individuals.
- Human Rights Consultations: Organized with OHCHR, assessing the situation for persons with disabilities in BiH.
- SDG Financing and Circular Economy: Conferences in Sarajevo discussing strategic financing for sustainable development and the transition to a circular economy.
- Health Services Conference: WHO hosted in Doboj, exchanging best practices for providing health services to vulnerable groups.
- Women Empowerment: Events in Sarajevo focused on strengthening women's positions at work and addressing family violence.
- Digital Transformation: Discussed in a meeting on digital transformation in the public sector.
- Final Day Events: Included UNFPA's "Fusion Fiesta Sports 4 Peace," Climate Action Academy by UNDP, refugee awareness by UNHCR, and a concert by Bosnian artist Laka promoting recycling.
- UNICEF Workshop on Social Protection gathered participants from eight local partner communities and discussed integration of programs into project proposals within the SDG2BiH grant scheme.





Throughout the years, SDG Week in BiH aims to stay a carbon-positive event and offset its CO2 footprint by purchasing trees on TvojCO2.ba carbon offsetting digital marketplace. UN agencies that organized events during the 2023 SDG Week in BiH planted tree seedlings for all participants through the TvojCO2 platform to offset the CO2 emissions generated during the preparation and implementation of the 17 events.

Outcome 2: Cantonal and local governments actively contribute to implementation of the SDG Framework in BiH

During the reporting period, the Programme focused on implementation of activities outlined in the custom-made Plan of Activities, collaboratively agreed upon with partner LGs and cantons. The plans aim to enhance the capacities of LGs and Cantons in operationalizing SDGs-aligned development strategies, developing grant schemes, and executing projects to contribute to the SDG Framework in BiH. The Programme engaged expert consultants to assist partners in aligning mid-term and annual work plans with SDGs, initiating and preparing two local development strategies. Additionally, assistance was provided to partners in identifying project ideas aligned with local development strategies and supporting the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) principle, as well as in preparation of technical documentation for the large-scale projects.

Output 2.1. Local governments capabilities to plan, finance, implement, monitor and report on their SDG achievements enhanced (up to 8 local governments)

During this reporting period, the Programme has provided various forms of technical assistance and capacity building to its partner LGs, such as:

- Supporting the preparation of new or revised local development strategies that are aligned with the SDG Framework in BiH and the new RS Law on Strategic Planning. Two LGs (Bijeljina and Laktaši) have prepared the final draft of the local development strategy and both documents have been published for the public consultations after which they will be formally adopted by their respective City Assemblies. One LG (Trebinje) has already completed the alignment of its strategy with the Law and the SDGs.
- Helping the LGs translate their SDG priorities into concrete and measurable plans and reports. Six LGs (Gradiška, Teslić, Novo Sarajevo, Trebinje, Jablanica, and Posušje) have prepared development reports, guidelines, three-year action plans, mid-term plans, annual work plans, and annual reports that reflect the SDGs. Two more LGs (Bijeljina and Laktaši) will do the same after their strategies are adopted.

- Identifying the areas where the LGs need assistance for developing large-scale pipeline projects that can attract external funding and contribute to the SDGs. The Programme has reviewed the materials for the training and has initiated the training programme for all partner LGs and Cantons. The training focused on basic principles of preparing project proposals, identifying large-scale projects, conducting cost-benefit analysis, preparation of the supporting documentation and potential sources for funding. As a result of the training the partners have identified one project (8 large-scale infrastructure projects for LGs in total) for which they'll identify all the necessary steps, so the projects are ready for funding. Also, for identified projects they will receive a small grant to prepare initial technical documentation which enables them to be ready for funding once adequate public calls are published. As a part of learning sessions, a short study tour to Varaždin, Republic of Croatia, was organized for the representatives of partner LGs and Cantons where they were given practical experiences in preparation for the implementation of large-scale projects.



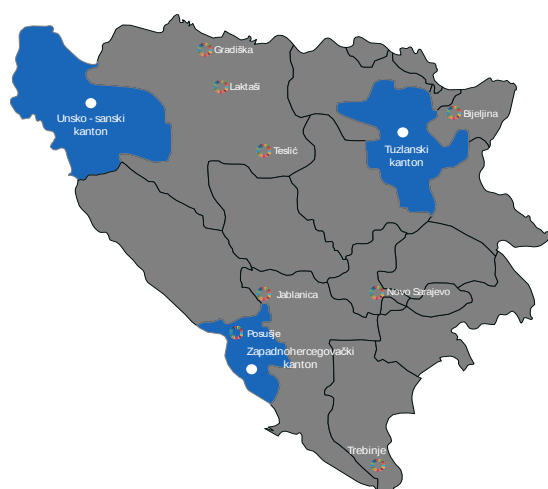
- Designing and implementing a grant scheme to support local initiatives that stem from the local development strategies and the LNOB principle. The Programme has held two consultation meetings with the LGs to discuss their project ideas and provide feedback. The Programme has also organized a six-day training programme to help the LGs develop and submit their project proposals. Nine project proposals have been prepared by the LGs (8 LNOB projects and 1 development project), involving 40 employees (70% women) and partners from social protection sectors. This UNICEF lead activity aims at providing technical assistance and grants to 8 partnering LGs to translate social priorities from SDG-aligned development strategies into concrete actions benefiting the most vulnerable social protection beneficiaries.

Upon approval by the Programme Board at the meeting held on 24th January 2024, the contracts have been signed with local partners and the implementation of 8 LNOB projects and 1 development project started as of February 1st, 2024. The total value of nine projects amount to BAM 1,312,288.00, out of which LGs secured BAM 326,498.00 or 25% of the funds. Estimated total number of direct beneficiaries is 3014 (1538 M and 1476 F). Out of that, 1854 (61%) children and youth (779 M and 381 F), 779 parents (337 M and 442 F) and 381 service providers (165 M and 216 F). The expected number of indirect beneficiaries is 43,283 (21,903 M and 21,380 F).

The main elements of the projects include:

- Creation of an inclusive local environment through innovative tailor-made practices based on LNOB Principle.

- Introduction of new and/or improved social services equally accessible for children and adults from vulnerable groups (with different developmental, behavioral difficulties, with disabilities, from rural areas, etc.).
- Establishment and/or support to existing Social Protection cross-sector coordination mechanisms/WGs at local level, as permanent multi-sectoral bodies aimed to improve social services through active cooperation of social, health, education, private, and other relevant sectors.
- Improvement of professional, technical and organizational capacities of service providers from social and education sectors (Day Care Centers, Sensor Room, Inclusive Playgrounds, Speech Therapist, Psychologists Services and support,...).
- Raising awareness of general public on importance of inclusion, visibility and equal opportunities for all based on LNOB Principle.



Regular multisectoral meetings were held in each partner LG in the first half of 2024. Participants were members of the project implementation teams from LGs, departments for local economic development (LER) and departments for social affairs, Social Work Centres, education, health sectors, as well as NGOs active in the field of social protection and inclusion. This broad network of partners are contributing to the projects implementation and further promotion of LNOB as a guiding principle for future sustainable planning of service provision.

Within each of the approved projects, implementing partners envisaged intensive UNICEF support for the introduction of Social Protection and Inclusion (SPI) model on social protection at local level, so technical support and expertise in that regard were

regularly provided. Intensive SPI trainings for project partners were held at the beginning of April 2024, in Mostar and Dobo. The goal of the trainings was to present the main principles of the UNICEF SPI model and steps for its introduction at local level, as well as to explore possibilities and to define steps for the establishment of multisectoral bodies (SPI commission and Operation teams) and SPI model introduction in each partnering local community.

During the reporting period SPI Commissions were established in seven out of eight partner LGs, all except Novo Sarajevo, where the similar approach is used to form Multisectoral WG for supporting the employment of young people with disabilities and their inclusion in the labor market. The SPI Commissions and the WG are established by mayors' decisions. During the upcoming period, operation teams (OT) will be formed as professional support to the work of the SPI Commissions in all seven locations. So far, OTs are established in Posušje, Trebinje and Bijeljina, the others are expected to be established by the end of July 2024.

All established multisectoral bodies (SPI Commissions and WG) consists of representatives of all relevant sectors: local governance providing the base and the platform for cooperation, social protection sector through Centers for social work has the main and coordinating role, and the other relevant sectors: education, health, security, NGO sector are involved depending on specific situation and target groups in each partner location.

In Novo Sarajevo, the FBiH Fund for Professional Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities and Sarajevo Canton Employment Bureau took an active role in the work of multisectoral WG, as well as

representatives of private sector, forming the platform for cooperation of all relevant sectors for youth with disabilities employment and social inclusion.

All established multisectoral bodies organized their initial meetings, defined ToRs and Work Plans for 2024 and are in the process of their adoption. In addition, preparations are initiated that will lead to drafting and signature of protocols on cooperation for strengthening social protection and inclusion at local level among different service providers within the SDG2BiH grant scheme.

By the end of 2024, protocols on cooperation defining referral mechanism for social protection and inclusion of selected target beneficiaries should be signed in all 8 partner JLS and Local Action Plans 2025-2026 for strengthening social protection and inclusion developed and adopted by local parliaments.

UNICEF will continue to monitor and support the efforts of local multisectoral bodies regarding protocols drafting, adoption and implementation in the upcoming period.

Output 2.2. Cantonal capabilities to plan, finance, implement, monitor and report on their SDG achievements enhanced (up to 3 cantons)

During this reporting period, aligned with support for LGs, the Programme provided various forms of technical assistance and capacity building to partner Cantons:

- Increasing the capacities of cantons to implement development strategies aligned with the SDG Framework by helping them translate their SDG priorities into concrete and measurable plans and reports. Two Cantons (Una-Sana Canton and Tuzla Canton) have prepared development reports, guidelines, three-year action plans, mid-term plans, annual work plans, and annual reports that reflect the SDGs. Additionally, technical assistance in preparing mid-term and annual work plans, action plans, annual reports, and development reports aligned with the SDG Framework was provided to Brčko District BiH.
- In Una-Sana Canton (USC), assistance was provided in preparing the By-law on Regulatory Impact Assessment. The Canton formed a working group that, with the lead and support of the Programme, prepared the draft by-law, which is now awaiting adoption by the Cantonal Government.
- In Tuzla Canton, the Programme supported the government in analyzing the regulatory framework for grants. This document provides an overview of the TC regulatory framework for grants with recommendations for alignment with EU principles. The TC government has taken full command of this process and will decide on the implementation format of the recommendations. Additionally, based on the priorities of West Herzegovina Canton, the Programme delivered PCM training for youth, resulting in at least five project proposals aligned with the Cantonal development strategy, SDG framework, and the principle "Leave No One Behind." These proposals were submitted to the Canton for further financing and implementation.
- Preparations for launching the grants scheme for cantons were initiated and completed. The training programme was designed to assist cantons in identifying project ideas that support sustainable development at the cantonal level. Organized as a six-day practical learning package, the training included participants from cantonal development management units and relevant ministries. After the training and mentorship, the cantons prepared seven project proposals aligned with cantonal development priorities and the SDG framework. Five of these projects will be co-financed by the Programme in 2024, while the rest are ready for submission to other donors.
- In alignment with support to LGs, the Programme identified areas in Cantons needing assistance in developing large-scale pipeline projects that can attract external funding and contribute to the SDGs. Training focused on preparing project proposals, identifying large-scale projects, conducting cost-benefit

analyses, preparing supporting documentation, and identifying potential funding sources. As a result, partnering cantons identified one large-scale infrastructure project each, with necessary steps outlined to ready the projects for funding. They will receive a small grant to prepare initial technical documentation.

After the Programme Board Meeting on January 24th, 2024, contracts were signed with three partner Cantons, and the implementation of five development projects began on June 4th, 2024. The total value of these projects amounts to BAM 843,900.00, with Cantons securing BAM 404,746.00 or 48% of the funds. The estimated total number of direct beneficiaries is 17,949 (10,362 M and 7,587 F). The main elements of the projects include:

- Improving the business environment through increased transparency and efficiency in the allocation of economic incentives.
- Increasing the alignment of education with labor market needs by establishing an education system with elements of dual education.
- Improving the quality of health and rehabilitation services with a special focus on children with developmental disabilities.
- Improving the quality of life for young families with children by expanding the capacities of public preschool institutions, ensuring equal rights for all children and citizens.
- Enhancing the social protection system and the status of vulnerable groups.

During the reporting period, all Cantons secured funding resources, formed project coordination teams, initiated procurement processes, and prepared Memorandums of Understanding with implementing partners. The Programme will continue to closely monitor the implementation of project activities and support the efforts of cantonal project coordination teams in drafting, adopting, and implementing protocols in the upcoming period.

Overall Management

“Translating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina into sustainable and inclusive growth (SDG2BiH)” is an initiative funded by Sweden and implemented by UNDP in partnership with UNICEF and UN Women, under the United Nations’ overall support extended to the authorities in BiH to implement the SDG Framework in BiH.

Upon signing of the contract, UNDP assumed full responsibility and accountability for the overall management of the Programme including achievement of the outputs and the outcomes, the efficient and effective use of resources, as well as implementation monitoring. UN Women and UNICEF are kept responsible for implementation of specific activities, considering the mandate and specific know-how that these agencies possess.

SDG2BiH operates with a Programme Board comprising representatives from the MFA of BiH, the Office of the Prime Minister of the FBiH, the Ministry for European Integrations and International Cooperation of RS, the Government of BD BiH, and UN agencies, namely UNDP, UNICEF, and UN Women. The Board is co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and a representative from the CoM BiH, with the participation of the Embassy of Sweden in the work of the Board as an observer. The Programme Board is the decision-making authority for the Programme, responsible for the Programme’s management oversight. It reviews and endorses annual work plans, supervises and monitors the progress of implementation, and authorizes any major deviation therefrom. During this reporting period, and specifically on January 24th 2024, the third Programme Board meeting was held.

The Programme Assurance, performed by the UNDP Good Governance Sector Leader and Associate, with support of the UNDP Sustainable Growth Sector Leader, supports the Programme Board by carrying out objective project oversight and monitoring functions. This role ensures appropriate project management milestones are managed and completed.

Within this reporting timeframe, the Programme experienced significant delay in hiring Project coordinator for UNW component of the Programme. This is due to relatively new field (care economy) and lack of qualified candidates. The situation has been resolved by hiring a new Project coordinator that will start working on 1st July 2024.

During this reporting period, the Programme deployed 28 national experts that committed a total of 532 days of work to support specific processes and deliver technical assistance, training, or other types of specific services.

Lessons learned

Taking into consideration the experience of the current Programme as well as learnings from the previous similar initiatives, below are some key “lessons learned” that are should be considered:

- **The participatory and consultative approach** applied, paired with awareness raising and capacity development and on-system support to localizing Agenda 2030, proved to be crucial for success and domestic ownership of both process and results. This provided for an opportunity for the stakeholders to contribute to and be part of the solution, to be creative and to share and own jointly achieved results.
- **Continuous empowerment of the key stakeholders** resulted in full ownership and readiness of domestic partners to facilitate and move processes forward. Institutional partners appreciated this approach and the fact that project actions and focus were not overprescribed and finite in their scope.
- **Continuous advocacy and support to strengthening strategic planning and development management systems in the country**, which are recognized as the backbone for systemic implementation of the Agenda 2030. These vertically and horizontally aligned systems are new or emerging and thus require future support.
- **Innovation and exploration.** Hallmark characteristic of the intervention is that all its work has fostered the transformative actions of business towards more sustainable business practices, by applying innovation and exploration as continuous parts of the thought processes.
- **Piloting of new and innovative business models based on circular economy and decarbonization principles** provided hands-on guidelines for business community how to successfully embark on the circular economy transformation journey. The pilots also break the myth of budgetary constraints for such transformations where the pilots show how smaller investments can have exponentially large positive impact on businesses. However, businesses still need to build specific human capital to be able to envision new ways of doing business and design transformative actions towards the circular economy.
- **Placing the focus on development agenda** is of extreme importance in a country where political issues and disagreements take up most of the public space and where issues relevant for everyday life of the citizens are side-lined.

Gender equality



Gender equality principles are at the core of UNDP's mandate, being one of six signature solutions within current UNDP's Strategic Plan. The Country Office (CO) has implemented the Gender Portfolio Review to understand gender equality programming interventions from a systems perspective, connect diverse interventions to achieve broader gender equality goals, and optimize the CO programming and resources to achieve greater gender equality outcomes. SDG2BiH was one of the projects reviewed for its gender equality contributions under a process that qualified the BiH CO for a Gender Seal Appraisal Mission. The Mission, completed on 17th November 2023, resulted in UNDP BiH CO being awarded the *Gold Gender Equality Seal*.

Gender equality also represents an important accelerator for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At the UNDP CO level gender equality work is being guided by its own *Gender Equality Strategy and Action Plan* (2021-2025) which provides a localized roadmap to reach the objectives of the corporate *UNDP Gender Equality Strategy* (2022-2025), and is an important tool for operationalizing the gender actions in the *UNSDCF* (2021-2025) and *Country Programme Document for BiH* (2021-2025), and broader *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. *UNDP CO BiH Strategy and Gender Action Plan* is guided by the following objectives:

- Establish gender equality as a cross-cutting issue across CO programming and intensify efforts towards gender mainstreaming;
- Increase programme development and fundraising efforts towards gender/empowerment of women specific programming efforts;
- Ensure that gender analysis and planning are introduced into all strategic CO activities and initiatives at the outset at the design and concept stage;
- Establish internal coordination for gender equality results, including by creating a multi-disciplinary gender focal team by gradual capacity development of staff in programming and mainstreaming gender in their thematic sectors;
- Build and expand partnerships with government entities, UN agencies, civil society, private sector, grassroots women's groups and other stakeholders for advocacy and broad ownership of UN goals;
- Facilitate CO compliance with the Gender Seal process and ensure smooth implementation of the CO Improvement Plan, anchoring and interconnecting the two related streams of action.

As an example to illustrate how this reflects in the organization of activities, when preparing the criteria for selection of the SDG Business Pioneers, an SDG2BiH-led initiative, gender equality is one of the key elements for selection, thus there is an entire subsection dedicated to rights of women in the workplace (including the data of women at senior management positions and rights linked to maternity leave and return to work). The methodology for the SDG BPA 2024, completed and adopted, has been built around gender equality as one of the priorities of sustainable business management again.

SDG Framework in BiH itself is a gender responsive document and as the only country wide development agenda in the country, it brings to the fore SDG 5 (Achieving Gender Equality), as per the targets defined in the Framework. Importantly, the SDG Framework in BiH, implemented under leadership of the SDG Council, addresses gender equality from different development perspectives and defines specific 2030 targets for both men and women. Priorities from the SDG Framework in BiH are further mainstreamed into sub-national planning

documents. Furthermore, the SDG FF prescribes specific tools to integrate gender equality into public policies, namely Gender Bonds.²



The Programme, still, goes above this to mainstream gender equality into all processes and activities it deals with and to motivate partners to do the same. Organized in October, the 2023 SDG Week in BiH put the spotlight on six transitions, or transformative entry points, that are vital for the overall implementation of the SDGs. Gender equality as a horizontal SDG accelerator was explored alongside SDGs localization, SDGs financing, transition towards circular economy, digital transformation. One of the events that explored how partnerships can propel and maximise efforts in the area of gender equality was a High-Level Policy Dialogue in the context of the SDG Week on 12 October 2023 on the topic of [*Strengthening the Position of Women at Work and their Ability to Participate Equally in Current Labour Markets in Bosnia and Herzegovina*](#). The event brought together over 60 decision makers, thought leaders, civil society, policy makers, academia, donors, and

practitioners to discuss the forward-looking perspectives for improving participation of women at the labour market and creating a better environment for women at work. The event highlighted UNDP's Gender Equality Seal for Private Enterprises and launched the UNDP's White Paper on [*Policies, Incentives and Affirmative Measures to Improve the Status of Women in the Labour Market in BiH*](#). Another policy dialogue was organized on 12 October 2023 with UN Women in the context of SDG on participation of women at the labour markets. Additionally, an event on local approaches to the prevention and combat against family violence, with a focus on violence against women in BiH, was organized by SALAR in the framework of the SDG Week 2023. UN Women also used the platform that is SDG Week 2023 to organize a dialogue on SDG 5 with women's CSOs. This event gathered relevant institutions, women leaders, CSOs, activists, women grassroots experts, practitioners, and academia.

The thematic session focusing on "The Economy of Care and Women's Unpaid Work", organized in the Parliamentary Assembly of FBiH provided a platform for sharing experiences, knowledge, and best practices in addressing the challenge of unequal burden of the economy of care among diverse range of stakeholders.

In addition to all the activities focused on gender equality, the Programme reflects gender sensitive language in all documents and the team carefully designs panels, trainings, and other events to be gender balanced in participation.

Visibility

Overall, the Programme's activities had 111 media mentions in 2024 and 46 media mentions in the second half of 2023. The Programme used social media as its primary channel for message dissemination based on past experiences. On UNDP's Facebook page alone, the Programme published 33 posts in the second half of 2023, and 26 Facebook posts in the first six months of 2024. Social media channels branded as Zamisli2030 were also utilized and acted as message multiplier. UNDP in BiH's website, and especially zamisli2030.ba website, were used to publish major Programme activities and milestones.

In July, the second VNR of BiH was presented at the HLPF at the UN Headquarters in NY. As mentioned above, as part of the HLPF, a high-level meeting on the Financial Framework and SDGs was jointly organized by BiH, the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of Serbia, Sweden - Sida and the UNDP. The participation of the BiH delegation in these high-level meetings reflected positively on the visibility of the Programme among specific partners and beneficiaries, especially senior policy makers.

² Bonds that support women's empowerment and gender equality (SDG Financing Framework, 2023).



During the SDG Week 2023, 17 events were held, and joint branding was implemented for them, as they were organized by various UN agencies under joint SDG Week umbrella. This SDG Week was focused on inclusion, green transition, and empowerment of women, and it served as a valuable platform to raise awareness on these issues and engage key audiences in discussions over trends and solutions to challenges. SDG Week finished with a concert whose aim was to promote the importance of recycling – tickets for the concert were PET bottles. This concert was open to the public, raising awareness of the importance of sustainable development at large, but also raising awareness on the SDG Week itself among the broader public.

In order to continue building momentum for the 6th edition of SDG BPA in 2024, the Programme ran a social media and Google Ads campaign during the application period. Social media campaigns reached more than 192.000 persons. Google Ads campaign was even more effective, with more than 1,500,000 impressions and 7,200 clicks on SDG BPA banner.

The Programme cooperated with known economist, Mr. Faruk Hadzic, who promoted the application process through his LinkedIn profile and his posts caught attention of stakeholder audiences. Application process was also promoted at live events held during that period, one in Banja Luka and two in Sarajevo. The campaign, along with other outreach activities, translated into record-breaking numbers of companies and applications. 360 companies applied, compared to 114 companies from 2023. Of the companies that applied, 28% fall into the large and medium enterprise category.

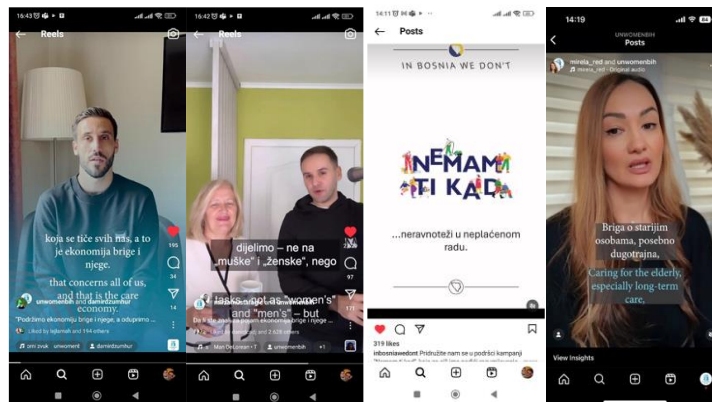


During a short study tour to Varaždin (Republic of Croatia) for the representatives of partner LGs and Cantons, ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Croatia paid a visit to the representatives which was covered in local and regional media.

The first-ever conference on SDGs in the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH attracted significant media attention. It is also important to note that cooperation framework established with FMRPO was widely covered.

The Programme's website, www.zamisli2030.ba, has undergone a comprehensive redesign and update. The new layout is more user-friendly, ensuring ease of navigation for all visitors. Additionally, the website now includes the most relevant and up-to-date information for each component of the programme, enhancing accessibility and providing a better user experience.

Social media campaign for “Nemam ti kad” worked with several influencers in order to reach desired target audiences. In all, 30,000 people were reached through traditional campaign, while influencer reels were watched by 170,000 people.



Implementation challenges

The list with the key risks affiliated with the project implementation are identified below, together with probability of occurring, types of effects on the project, as well as adequate mitigation measures and update on developments in terms of risks initially identified at the project outset. Overall, after considering likelihood of the risk occurrence and impact overall risk level for this Project remains as **medium** attributed mainly to political factors.

Risk	Probability	Type / Impact	Programme response
Partners fail to ensure financial sources for co-funding sustainable development priorities.	Moderate	Minor	Investments by higher government levels for sustainable development in various sectors have been reduced due to the COVID-19 crisis. Nevertheless, relevant development measures and priorities are outlined in the newly prepared SDG-aligned development strategies, therefore it is expected that some financial resources will be in place. The Programme will seek commitment and engagement of relevant authorities from the outset, insisting on early transfer of funds.
Lack of awareness and interest of private sector and other non-governmental stakeholders to engage in Programme implementation.	Moderate	Financial / Medium	The Programme will engage with interested and committed private sector partners. The Programme will build on the existing interventions and continuously promote the importance of private sector engagement and contribution, emphasizing the benefits of their involvement in sustainable development financing.
There is a potential risk that duty-bearers do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the Programme.	Low	Social and Environmental / Medium (delays)	The Programme will apply adequate mitigation measures, such as signing agreements with institutional partners, thus formalising their commitment and contribution. The Programme will also reserve the right to remove and replace

			cantons and local governments with uncooperative leaderships.
Increased level of risk linked to intended increased shift of implementation responsibility to third parties, thus delaying up to one year in public procurement procedure that will be conducted by local partners	Moderate	Operational / Low	The Programme will have a flexible approach, including reprogramming of activities to respond to emerging needs/time frame.

Synergies with other interventions

- The Programme closely cooperated with the **UN Joint Programme on SDG Financing** (2021-2023) that supported design of the SDG Financing Framework in BiH. Analytical work produced under the UN Joint Programme provided evidence-based inputs for SDG financing interventions that are supported under the Programme, including on potentials and importance for creating specific SDG financing instruments/schemes for SDG priority areas targeted and patient support.
- The Programme closely cooperate with the **Green Economic Development (GED) Project – Phase III** (2021-2024), financed by Sweden, especially in support to the private sector on energy efficiency measures to be linked to the circular economy initiatives under the Programme, so as to expand the outreach and impact of sustainability measures on the private sector in the country.
- Close coordination is established with the **Municipal Environmental Governance Project (MEG)**, funded by Switzerland, Sweden and the EU through promotion of e-citizen application as well as with the **“Project for Improving Performance of Local Services (PIPLS) in BiH”** supported by Sweden, with shared good government priorities underpinning the agenda for transformational change in local governance in particular.
- The Programme will continue with close contact and cooperation with other initiatives funded by Sweden in BiH like **SERDA, Mozaik and Kult**.
- The Programme established synergies with EU-funded projects **EU4BusinessRecovery Project** (2021-2023) and **EU4AGRI-Recovery Project** (2021-2023), both supporting the agri-food sector businesses in mitigating negative impact of COVID-19 on their business operations. The focus of the interventions is on introduction of sustainable business practices, business continuity and transition towards the circular economy so as to future-proof the businesses against possible crises.
- With the **Digital Transformation in Business Project (DigitalBIZ)** financed and implemented by UNDP, synergies are made in field of digital readiness assessments that are offered to all local governments and cantons that participate in the Programme.
- UN Women ongoing **Project on women’s economic empowerment in BiH – rebuilding better**, funded by United Kingdom, feeds in relevant knowledge related to building growth and resilience of women-owned businesses in BiH. Previous UN Women work, as well as insights from the **UN Women Strategic Note 2021 – 2025** (in particular Impact 2, which focuses on improving government capacities to promote employment policies that enhance women’s access to decent work and promote income security, as well as women owned businesses and women entrepreneurs strengthened capacities and resilience) will inform and complement the envisaged activities of the Programme.

Financial overview

In June 2022, the Programme (UNDP- SDG2BiH) received 10,000,000 SEK (1,019,783.81USD and in July 2023, 17,000,000 SEK (1,624,152.10 USD) as per respectable exchange rates, which makes total received: 2,643,935.91 USD.

The total budget – award as per contract #00143272 for the Programme is 4,529,038.44 USD.

Expenditures for the period: 1 April 2022 – 30 June 2024

Outcome 1:	Authorities at state, entity and Brčko District levels effectively work on planning, implementing, monitoring, and reporting on the SDG Framework in BiH	888,983.10 USD
Outcome 2:	Cantonal and local governments actively contribute to implementation of the SDG Framework in BiH.	792,560.58 USD
Project management	Project Management and Operating Costs	232,307.61 USD
Total (incl. 8% GMS and operational costs)		1,913,851.28 USD

Current commitments as of June 30, 2024:

Open POs	ICs and services	118,968.47 USD
Activity 2.1	Grant scheme "Leave no one behind" - LGs	194,400.00 USD
Activity 2.2	Grant scheme "Leave no one behind" - Cantons	151,200.00 USD
Total (incl. 8% GMS and operational costs)		464,568.47 USD

Note: 3rd tranche in amount of 145,260.00 USD to UNWOMEN not transferred, since there is a balance of 136,875.21 USD from previous tranches not reported. As per UNDP policy, balances that have been outstanding for more than six months represent serious audit risks.

In addition, current balance (transferred, not reported yet) of UNICEF is: 78,681.59 USD.

Grand total financial overview:

Expenditures	Commitments:	Obligations and balances UN Women and UNICEF	GRAND TOTAL:
1,913,851.28 USD	464,568.47 USD	360,816.80 USD	2,739,236.55 USD