

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

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The First Annual Progress Report

Reporting period: April 2022 – June 2023



Implementing Partner: UNDP in Bosnia and Herzegovina

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Glossary

B2B	Business to Business
BIH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
BHAS	BIH Agency for Statistics
BPPS	Bureau for Policy and Programme Support
BD	Brčko District
DEP	Directorate for Economic Planning (BIH)
DIM	Direct Implementation Modality
FBIH	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
ILDP	Integrated Local Development Project
IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
IRH	Istanbul Regional Hub (UNDP)
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina
MICS 6	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
NGO	Non-governmental organization
ProDoc	Project Document
RCC	Regional Cooperation Council
RCO	UN Resident Coordinator's Office
RIA	Rapid Integration Assessment
RS	Republika Srpska
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEE	South East Europe
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 Development
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 aims to 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 is 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, smart and green growth, while at the same time contributing to creating a society of equal opportunities. The stakeholders in the country will be 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 instigated through piloting of the SDG localisation at the cantonal and local levels, increased awareness and capacities of local stakeholders, along with support and preparation of concrete projects that will instigate concrete changes in the life of people and demonstrate how lower government levels can contribute to reaching the SDGs, with particular focus on ensuring that no one is left behind in the process. 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

The most important achievement in this reporting period is support in the preparation and adoption of the second BiH Voluntary Review (VNR). This document was prepared by the members of the SDG Council in BiH with close technical, logistical, and expert support of the Programme. The second VNR was adopted by the Council of Ministers of BiH in June 2023 after being adopted earlier by the governments of the Federation of BiH (FBiH), Republika Srpska (RS), and Brčko District of BiH (BD BiH). The VNR will be presented at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2023, under the leadership of the BiH Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

It is important to note that in June 2023, the Council of Ministers of BiH formally appointed the SDG Council in BiH as a body mandated to monitor the process of implementing Agenda 2030 in BiH and preparing annual reports for the Council of Ministers of BiH, as well as the preparation of BiH VNR documents. The Programme actively supported the Agency for Statistics in BiH to optimize and collect data used in the VNR though significant challenges were encountered in this regard.

In parallel, a joint UN Programme on SDG financing funded by the Joint SDG Fund, provided support to the institutional stakeholders in the country (ministries of finance at all government levels, a number of line ministries and SDG Council) in preparing a Road Map on SDG Financing, which is now being elaborated into an SDG Financing Framework in BiH. The Road Map defined priority three sectors (energy and infrastructure (decarbonization), digitalization and research and development) to which have a significant catalytic potential to contribute to an accelerated SDG achievement, leverage private capital and expand the fiscal space increase SDG financing in other areas. It also defines financing instruments that need to be established to enable accelerated achievements and expand development partnerships. These efforts strongly built on the SDG Framework in BiH and will create foundations for implementation of the Programme activities aiming to pilot financing instrument for accelerated implementation of the SDG Framework in BiH. Considering these efforts as well as the forthcoming presentation of the BiH 2nd VNR, the BiH Mission to the UN formally proposed a side event on SDG financing at the HLPF organized in partnership with Serbia, Indonesia, Sweden/Sida and UNDP. The side event aims at instigating dialogue on systemic, yet innovative approaches countries apply to accelerate sustainable development achievements at the times of global crises, particularly focusing on financing strategies and financing instruments.

During this reporting period, the Programme selected eight local communities and three cantons that started their journey towards operationalization of SDG-aligned development strategies through sustainable development policy making, programming, budgeting, and implementation across selected development accelerators. Following introductory workshops held with partner local governments and cantons, technical assistance package tailored to needs of individual partners has been designed and implementation has been launched. Simultaneously, the Programme supported the SDG Council in BiH in conducting visits to one-third of all local communities in BiH and initiating the process of SDG localization.

In parallel, the Programme organized a number of workshops to strengthen governments' planning systems for effective implementation of the SDGs, monitoring, and reporting in FBiH, RS, and BD BiH.

Next to the initiation of the circular maturity web-platform and the mapping of circular economy opportunities, during this reporting period, the Programme promoted two generations (fourth and fifth) of the SDG Business Pioneers in BiH. It is important to note the rise in interest in the award through an increased number of applications from the private sector. This is reflected in the interest of major food, oil, internet providers, and banking companies in the country. Each generation of award winners promotes elements of good practice that are more widely known in the country, but more importantly, puts the spotlight on excellent companies that were "below the radar" and motivates others to follow. Additionally, each generation singles out companies that are ready to support and mentor (SDG mentors network). The SDG Business Pioneers Award 2023 added an

In October 2022, the SDG Week in BIH, a platform for consultation and discussion that supports the promotion of SDGs in the country, brought together 15 different stakeholders including UN agencies, local communities, the private sector, and NGOs. The main theme of the SDG Week 2022 was "Focus on a sustainable future amidst colliding crises - The time for smart choices is now!". Preparation for the 2023 SDG Week have been launched.

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.

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

VNR preparation

Extensive consultations took place with all relevant stakeholders. In addition to the institutions at the state, entity and BD BiH levels, non-governmental organizations, representatives from the private sector, and UN agencies operating in BiH made significant contributions to the VNR's development.

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IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 2030 AND
THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



2023

Brčko, Mostar, Tuzla, and Sarajevo. Furthermore, during the same month, a workshop was organized with the Green Network, a coalition of 22 civil society organizations working towards mitigating the adverse effects of climate change on local communities. The participation of young people in the preparation of the BiH VNR was facilitated through the online platform U-Report BiH, operated by UNICEF BiH¹. More than 1,200 young individuals contributed to the process through this platform. The private sector was also actively engaged during the review process, particularly companies that demonstrated their commitment to Agenda 2030 by participating in the SDG Business Pioneers Award in BiH and signing the SDG Pledge in BiH.

During the preparation of the VNR, the SDG Council in BiH faced difficulties to effectively monitor progress in 74 indicators set in the SDG Framework in BiH. The challenge occurred due to the lack of high-quality statistical data in the observed period and change in the baseline values because of changes in the methodology, which called into question the set target value.

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

As defined within the SDG Framework, functional planning and development management systems at all government levels are the backbone for effective implementation of the priorities set therein. The activities in this field therefore focused on strengthening these systems at the state, entities and BD BiH level for vertical and horizontal coordination, monitoring and reporting on implementation of the SDG Framework in BiH.

In the FBiH the Programme provided support in process of analytical review related with the implementation of regulatory framework on development planning and management. For this purpose, Federal Institute for Development Planning started with consultations with all three levels in FBiH, across three workshops separately for local governments, cantonal level and FBiH level. Upon request, the Programme provided support in printing and dissemination of the FBiH Development Strategy 2021 – 2027.

As for the RS, the RS Government adopted a formal decision on preparation of its new Sustainable Development Strategy that will enable systemic implementation of the SDGs. In close coordination with the RS Government Executive Team that will be responsible for coordinating the planning process, the Programme designed terms of reference for key experts and is finalizing the recruitment procedure.

During this reporting period, the Programme provided support for the Unit for Strategic Planning in of the General Secretariat of the BD BiH in implementation a new regulatory framework for 27 strategic planning units. The activity resulted with preparation of mid-term working plans 2024 – 2026 and annual working plans for 2023, which are adopted and published on their web sites. In addition, the project supported preparation of the 2021 strategy annual report. All prepared documents are aligned with the SDGs Framework in BiH.



The Programme also provided limited capacity building and training for implementation of new regulatory framework for strategic planning to public servants from 27 department /units² in BD BiH. The Programme provided support in preparation of BD BiH Government Annual Report for 2022.

¹ <https://bih.ureport.in/>

² Administrative units and/or offices of the secretariat, coordination, finance departments, etc..

For the first time in BD BiH, Government units reported about implementation of annual working plans. Thus, during the reporting period the new system was fully implemented for the first time.

The BD BiH Directorate for Finance initiated preparation of amendments to the BD BiH Budget Law, where the Programme provided support in addressing the sections related to strategic planning.

1.1.3. Supporting governments in translating selected development accelerators into action

Social Protection Strategy development (UNICEF)

During the reporting period, UNICEF, a partner agency in the Programme, provided technical and financial assistance to FBiH and the RS to conduct situational analyses, including collection of primary data. Both entities were supported to draft an evidence based Social Protection Strategies 2023 -2027. All stakeholders were involved in this phase of data collection – social protection beneficiaries, social service workforce, managers of the social protection institutions, policy makers as well as the founders of local centers for social work (municipal authorities). Situational analyses revealed numerous bottlenecks and weaknesses of social protection systems in both entities, including weak targeting, understaffed (or not adequate human resource) structure of social service providers, focus on institutionalization, a weak legal framework in some areas (such as standards for provision of social services, licensing, etc.).

For the purpose of the Social Protection Strategy development, both entity Ministries of Social Policy established Working Groups consisting of various representatives of social protection institutions (Ministries at entity and cantonal levels, Associations of Social Workers, Centers for Social Welfare, RS Children’s Fund, etc.), including UNICEF.

During the first half of the 2023, the FBiH Working Group finalized and validated the Social Protection Strategy, while the RS Working Group prepared the final draft Strategy, which needs more fine-tuning before public discussions and adoption occur, which is expected in mid-2023.

Both strategies are in line with the SDG Framework in BiH and address a wide range of elements of the system – from tackling social exclusion through improved policy planning and targeting to improved social service delivery. The strategic vision of both entities includes the following priorities: focus on poverty reduction, prevention and early identification of families at risk, improved targeting, deinstitutionalization, development of community-based services, etc.

Both Social Protection Strategies were developed in a close collaboration and partnership with two Bosnia and Herzegovina Associations of Social Workers in both entities, which proved to be partners of choice for numerous interventions within Social and Child protection programmatic areas.

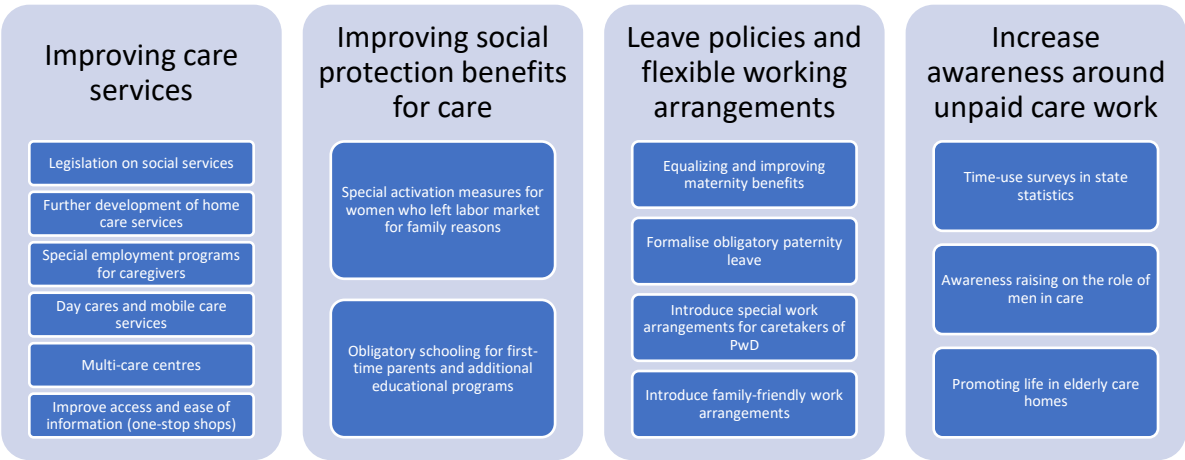
Baseline Study on Care Economy in BiH (UN WOMEN)

Research and policy evaluations of gender inequalities unequivocally confirm that women disproportionately perform care work. However, until now, there has not been a comprehensive overview of the care economy in BiH that could inform policy and programmatic work.

To address this, during this reporting period, UN Women, a partner agency in the Programme, contracted the Economic Institute Sarajevo to develop a Baseline Study on Care Economy in BiH through an overview of key denominators, policy and programming options. The Baseline Study contained a comprehensive overview of the regulatory framework relevant for the provision of care, a macroeconomic analysis to estimate the size and growth potential of the economy and the broader effects of new care economy investment and employment on overall economic activity and looked into the role of cultural norms and gender stereotypes on the division of labour and care work.

The Baseline Study confirms that unpaid care work in BiH is performed disproportionately by women. Women in average spend 6.5 hours a day on care (that includes domestic care, childcare, elderly care and, care for children or people with disabilities) compared to 3.5 for men. Unpaid care work is one of the key factors preventing women from more active participation in the labour market. The Study also found that the care sector is complex and heterogeneous, with a variety of issues and problems deeply rooted in the BiH system. Therefore, improving the care system in BiH that would lead to the recognition of unpaid care work and its impact on women's economic empowerment and gender equality, the reduction of unpaid care work and informal paid care work and the redistribution of care work from women to men and from families to the wider society requires a multi-sector, multi-stakeholder holistic approach. The Study provided a series of recommendations for improving care services, improving social protection benefits for care, enhancing leave policies and flexible working arrangements and increasing awareness around unpaid care work. The diagram below gives an overview of these recommendations.

Overview of recommendations from Baseline Study on Care Economy in BiH



Based on the evidence and recommendations, as well as further stakeholder consultations, UN Women has selected two pilot care models that will be implemented as of July 2023:

One of the pilot care models will be developed in Canton Sarajevo and will be looking towards enabling people with disabilities and the elderly and those that care for them to have easier and more accessible access to information needed to achieve the rights and benefits that they are entitled to. The users of these rights and benefits have identified this as a major obstacle for them in accessing the care that they need and getting the right quality care.

The other model uses the positive experience of countries in the region to build on the existing employment programs for difficult to employ women that provide home care services to the elderly and those in need. The aim would be to pilot a program that would ensure the sustainability of employment by providing additional training to women and enabling them to gain the needed qualifications, as well as to start their own businesses. This model would address the needs for employment and self-employment of women and the needs for different care services in the communities (particularly rural communities).

In parallel to preparing the care model piloting, UN Women has initiated care economy accelerator dialogues that aim to address the key systemic issues around care work, through using the multi-stakeholder partnership platform of the Generation Equality Action Coalition for Economic Justice and Rights. The launch of the policy dialogue on the Care Economy Accelerators took place in May 2023 with a whole array of stakeholders in attendance, from government institutions, non-governmental organisations, to private sector companies, donors and international financial institutions. The event was used also to present to wider stakeholders the findings and recommendations of the Baseline Study.

The key conclusions of the launch event included:

- The recognition that all measures for enhancing the care economy require a multi-sector, multi-stakeholder approach, amongst different sectors of government but also between the public sector, non-governmental sector, private sector, donors and international financial institutions. Many countries, including the EU have achieved this through the development of strategies for the transformation of the care economy.
- A clear investment plan in the care economy is needed – from infrastructure, expert education and employment, service standards to ensuring decent pay and work for people employed in the care sector.
- Participants of the event voted that measures for improving social protection benefits for care were the highest priority for them.

UN Women will continue, in partnership with other partner institutions, to raise awareness on the impact of unpaid care work on gender equality and the economic empowerment of women, work towards on breaking gender stereotypes when it comes to care work and highlight the need to evenly distribute the burden of care between women and men, and between families and the wider society.

The launch of the Care Accelerator Policy Dialogues was preceded on 15 May 2023 by a consultative meeting with civil society organisations that work in the area of gender equality and women's empowerment to take on board their perspectives regarding issues of care work. The conclusions of this consultative meeting also confirmed the need to have systemic solutions to transforming the care economy and supported some of the recommendations of the Baseline Study, such as the need to introduce obligatory paternal leave, include men more in care work, initiate parenting schools and include young people in all awareness-raising activities. They also highlighted the need to pay special attention to the specific needs of marginalised groups, such as Roma women, returnees, women with disabilities and others.

Circular Economy Web Platform

In December 2022, the Programme kicked off creation of Circular Economy web Platform, as a comprehensive platform for sharing news related to circular economy, providing structured information on different ways to practice circular economy, delivering circular economy e-learning, promoting best practices, ideas and projects, and supporting networking of businesspeople, government, and industry experts interested in circular economy advancement through the community of practice services. One of the key components of the platform is development of circular economy maturity and circularity assessment tool. This tool will be integrated based on the algorithm developed by the Free University of Bolzano, Italy. In those terms, UNDP partnered with the University and contracted it to further modify the tool and adopt it to the context of BiH. This tool will be offered to businesses in BiH to assess the following aspects:

- a) circularity - defined as a level of circular economy performance of the company concerning the maximum performance the company can achieve, and
- b) 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.

At this point, Service Provider is adapting the algorithm, creating categorization model and set of recommendations that will be provided in the form of report to the companies after they complete their self-assessment. Tool and corresponding reports will be developed in six languages – B/C/S, English, Italian and German language. Further goal will be to expand the use of the tool to countries in the region, since this tool represents a unique and comprehensive platform on the market.

In April 2023, the Programme initiated a process of direct contracting of Service Provider for the development of the above-mentioned web platform, which will be a multitenant solution based on the already existing Digital Pulse platform (www.digitalnaekonomija.ba), developed by the same company. These two platforms will be interconnected and share the same database of users. Currently, UNDP is finalizing the process of contract issuance and expected commencement of the work is by the end of June 2023. It is expected that the platform will be created by the end of October 2023.

Mapping circular economy opportunities

The Programme started with the activities to support the governments to kickstart the transition to the circular/green economy by mapping circular economy opportunities for two key industries (construction and packaging). In the original Programme document, this activity was planned to be performed for one key industry (textile/apparel), however, in February 2023, Programme initiated the changes in Programme document related to this activity, and it was agreed between UNDP and Sweden to change the activity into mapping circular economy opportunities for the two industries mentioned above. Process of contracting a Service Provider is almost finalised and it is expected that activities will commence by the end of June 2023. Within the planned activities, UNDP, together with the support of Service Providers will provide support in enabling businesses to perform their circularity assessment through a deep insight based on the material flow analysis (MFA) and life cycle assessment (LCA), but also across their entire operations and in view of digitally enabled solutions which could accelerate the transition to the circular economy. In addition, set of training for the key representatives of institutional representatives will be designed and delivered, with the goal to promote good practices implemented in BiH and the region to raise awareness among key institutional stakeholders on more circular and sustainable products. The assignment should showcase how sustainability makes sense from the business perspective and how average operators in the selected industries can recover better and be more resilient with the adoption of circular and sustainable business agenda.

In partnership with the Faculty of Economics and Business, and with joint efforts, SDG2BiH plans to promote circular economy within the academic community and raise awareness on the importance of circular transition. The First Meet Up: Circular Economy was organized in June 2023. Through a panel, speakers presented the current obstacles for implementing circular transition in BiH, as well as possible pathways to overcome those obstacles. In total, 82 people participated in the Meet Up from private sector, financial institutions, government agencies and ministries, students etc. It is agreed that in the following period, more similar activities will be implemented, including Summer School for Circular Economy, aimed at students from the whole BiH.



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

Capacity building and optimisation of SDG web platform

In order to successfully monitor and report progress of implementation of Agenda 2030 in BiH, process of translation of SDG Framework in BiH into strategic actions on lower levels of government, preparation for BiH VNR and similar documents, it is of crucial importance to have data and relevant statistics available for professionals in and out of the country. The BiH Agency for Statistics operates a web portal based on open SDG platform that collect and present available SDG based data on one spot (<https://sdg.bhas.gov.ba/>).

During this reporting period, the Programme supported the BiH Agency for Statistics to optimize the web platform and bring up to date all available data used by the platform. The Programme also provided limited training for employees working for the Agency.

The web platform Open SDG operated by the BiH Agency for Statistics created the SDG web portal ([COR.bhas.gov.ba](https://sdg.bhas.gov.ba/)) which provides visualization of the UN global indicators for BiH in English and official languages in BiH. The portal enables harmonized and internationally comparable reporting under the SDG indicators, as well as better coordination with the UN agencies in charge of monitoring individual indicators. The RS Institute of Statistics and the FBiH Institute of Statistics also initiated the development of this platform. In addition, the BiH Agency for Statistics of BiH and the RS Institute of Statistics prepare annual publications on sustainable development indicators.



In November 2022, the Programme had series of meetings with management of the Agency and agreed to hire an international consultant to optimize and bring up to date all data collected by the Agency. This was greatly appreciated by the Agency as the platform was not maintained for longer period of time as the staff who entered data into the platform left the agency. After the update, the Programme offered capacity building and held two training sessions with newly appointed employees of the Agency. As a result, the web platform is now fully operational in English and languages officially used in BiH.

In agreement with the Agency, the next step will be creation of separate set of SDG indicators that will follow data used in preparation of the SDG Framework in BiH and easy monitoring of progress of the SDG Framework.

The Programme also facilitated two working meetings (February – May 2023) between the BiH Agency for Statistics and members of the SDG Council in BiH. During the meetings, representatives of the Agency and the SDG Council discussed protocols on optimization of data sharing from BiH towards UN and other global partners.

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

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 SDG Framework in BiH recognises a number of priority areas where governments do not only need to change the way they design policies but also how they finance sustainable development. Exploiting development

partnerships and joining forces with a wide range of stakeholders is a pre-requisite for accelerated SDG achievements.

During the reporting period, the Programme actively contributed and supported initiative implemented by the UN and funded by the Joint SDG Fund that aims at supporting the preparation of a financing strategy/framework for the SDGs. Following an extensive development finance assessment, an SDG Financing Road Map was designed identifying short-term and long-term policies and measures for acceleration of SDG achievements in the priority areas, along with clearly defined roles and responsibilities of individual institutional stakeholders. The Road Map is currently being elaborated into an SDG Financing Framework to be adopted by all government levels in. In addition, upon adoption of the SDG Financing Framework, the UN will continue dialogue with main stakeholders, including the IFIs, advocating further and coherent support to the governments in implementing the defined solutions. Another important external factor that will positively influence implementation of the reforms, sustainability and upscale of the results is the country's process of accession to the EU, which directly complements and reinforces the reforms defined in the SDG Financing Framework. Following consultations with a range of stakeholders, including the private sectors and IFIs, the SDG Frameworks is currently being finalized and is to be submitted into the formal adoption procedure.

Adoption of the SDG Financing Framework will open path for concrete assistance to governments by the Programme to improve their financing instruments towards advancing sustainable development and to deploy improved financing instruments to support implementation of priorities stemming from the SDG Framework. Envisaged assistance is to include preparation of relevant pre-feasibility and feasibility studies required for setting in place key financing instruments.

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

Activities below focus on advancing engagement of private sector, but also of other relevant actors, in the implementation of Agenda 2030. Following the results achieved through the SDG Roll-Out Support and Private Sector Engagement Project, funded by Sweden and implemented by UNDP, the Programme further expands the activities that have led to the adoption of sustainable practices and reporting principles in companies. Furthermore, the Programme support socials and behavior change towards sustainable production and consumption through the promotion of circular economy principles and good practices implemented in BiH and the region.

1.3.1. Engaging private sector to promote sustainable development

SDG Business Pioneers Award in BiH

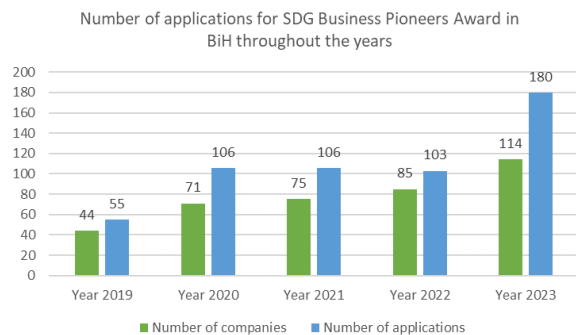
The SDG Business Pioneers Award in BiH has grown into a flagship brand and an excellent private sector engagement instrument. With a mission to promote importance of sustainability reporting, Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) standards and creation of decent jobs and reduction of environmental impact in private sector, the Programme continued implementing effective private sector engagement instrument - the SDG Business Pioneers Award in BiH. It is an annual award 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. The Award was initiated in



2019 and in 2023 it was organized for the fifth time. During the reporting period, the Programme organized two SDG Business Pioneers Award, in the year 2022 and in 2023. The Award kept focus on the companies that create and retain decent jobs and actively reduce their environmental impact.

In June 2022, the award ceremony was organized in the premises of Ministry of Programming (MoP), as MoP had a role of SDG Business Mentors that won the award in their category in 2020 and 2021. The ceremony enabled networking opportunity and dialogue among stakeholders, bringing together more than 150 representatives of like-minded businesses and other stakeholders around the idea of sustainability.

In 2023, during the three months long³ application call total of 114 companies applied with 180 applications. The winners were awarded and celebrated at Youth Theatre in Sarajevo in June 2023, gathering 200 participants, representatives of institutions businesses, civil society, public administration, academia, and financial institutions. In 2023, the award ceremony also put spotlight on financial institutions, banks and microcredit agencies in BiH which have note-worthy practices and solutions in financial sector in BiH targeted at the private sector, actively supporting implementation of SDGs in the country, that can be replicated and scaled-up. This recognition for the financial institutions outlined a palette of existing products and services already in use in BiH that integrate SDGs, promote smart growth, greening activities and all activities that support decarbonisation, as well as products and activities that promote “Leave no one behind” principle. The SDG Business Pioneers Award ceremony was a carbon-positive event which was done by purchasing 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 official partner for this award is the Foreign Trade Chamber of BiH. This partnership aims at improving the cooperation and raising awareness of the importance of sustainable businesses, circular economy, digitalization and decarbonization in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



It is important to note the rise in interest in the award that translate into increased number of applications of the private sector. This reflects also in interest of the major food, oil, internet providers and banking companies in the country. Each generation of the award winners promote elements of good practice that are more wide known in country (dm – drogerie markt, Zira, Seeba..) But more importantly, puts spotlight on excellent companies that were “below the radar” (GS tvornica masina Travnik, Smrčak d.o.o., Zeos d.o.o.) And motivate others to follow. Also, each generation provide for companies that grow to support and mentor their peers (SDG mentors network).

³ The application call was open from 1 January 2023 until the 31 March 2023.

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.

Both ceremony award events were publicized through mainstream media in BiH.

1.3.2. SDG Week and promotion of SDG localization

SEDMICA ODRŽIVOG RAZVOJA u BiH 2022 7 - 14. oktobar 2022.



SDG Week in BiH is an annual flagship activity aimed at promoting the SDGs and creating a society of equal opportunities. This report covers the fourth edition of the SDG Week, held from 7 to 14 October 2022, which focused on the theme "It is time to make smart choices now!". The event provided a platform for discussions and consultations involving over 500 representatives from the public, economic, academic, and civil society sectors, with the aim of fostering decarbonization, innovation, and smart economic growth.

The first event
"Towards
sustainable
development
financing - the



time for smart choices is now!", presented the Roadmap for financing Agenda 2030 in BiH, as well as sustainable development financing models, practical examples from countries that have advanced financing models in the fields of energy, innovation and green economy, and the importance of optimizing public spending. The goal was to highlight the importance of making smart decisions in a timely manner and building a sustainable, crisis-resistant future.

The opening event was followed by a number of other events addressing different aspects of sustainable development, such as:

- Round Table Discussion on Global Compact on Migration (GCM), the implementation of the GCM and the opportunities that migration provides for the advancement of sustainable development, both for countries of origin and for countries of destination, were discussed. The GCM is the first intergovernmental agreement that covers all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner.
- Session on implementation of 2030 Agenda at the local level, priorities, and challenges organized by the SDG Council engaging local governments from the Sarajevo region.
- Webinar with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), on the importance of civil society participation in the preparation of key documents related to Agenda 2030 implementation, including the VNR.
- SDG Mentoring sessions where two companies⁴ (Ministry of Programming and Kakanj Materials) organized workshops for the 2022 generation winners of the SDG Business Pioneers Awards. During the workshops, they worked with companies on their plans and strategies for transition to sustainable business models for 2023. Kakanj Materials hosted a mentoring session where they shared insights into their vision of the

⁴ Companies that won the SDG Business Pioneers Award in previous years and showed particular interest in SDGs.

decarbonization process and plans to actively reduce their environmental footprint, as well as how they purposefully and continuously contribute to the improvement of their value chains and the development of their communities.

For the final day of the SDG Week, two events were organized, the first being "Future Talks: Circular Future(s) in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Beyond", which focused on the transition of the economy towards circularity, through the vision set in the draft Roadmap for a Circular Economy for Bosnia and Herzegovina. The second event focused on the comprehensive education of young people about healthy lifestyles.

The SDG Week introduced a new routine in its 2022 edition and asked each UN agency that sponsored events under the SDG Week to plant tree seedlings for all participants of the SDGs week, which offset the CO₂ emissions that occurred during the preparation and implementation of 15 events. This campaign was joined by a private company Mibral, whose employees organized reforestation action on Igman mountain.

The Programme initiated preparations for the organization of the SDG Week in BiH 2023 which is planned to be held in Sarajevo, from 13-19 October 2023. The concept note is to be finalized in July 2023.

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

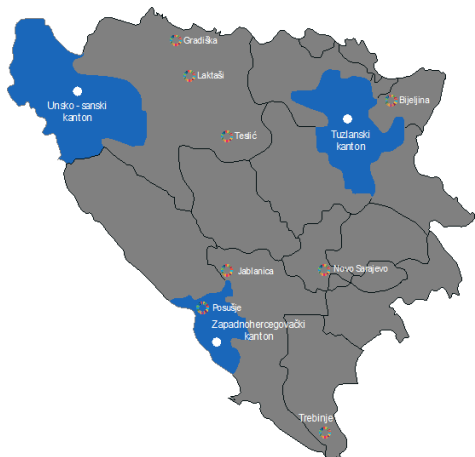
During this reporting period, the Programme worked on designing and promoting intervention packages to pilot grass-root localization of the SDGs. The Programme team worked on identifying eight local governments and three cantons to partner with, in the process of localization of the SDGs. The process of selection of partner local governments and cantons was initiated in October 2022 with a public call inviting local governments and cantons across Bosnia and Herzegovina to apply and become partners and leaders in promoting and localizing SDGs. Following the completion of the public call, a two-stage selection process was conducted included review of submitted applications and verification visits to shortlisted local governments and cantons. Subsequently, eight local governments (Bijeljina, Gradiška, Jablanica, Laktaši, Novo Sarajevo, Posušje, Teslić and Trebinje) and three cantons (Tuzla Canton, Una Sana Canton and West Herzegovina Canton) were selected as partners to the Programme. All the selected local governments and cantons were the best applicants and were selected on the basis that they can be true leaders in sustainable development and in bringing changes. The Protocol on cooperation, detailing areas of assistance and collaboration, with all partners was signed in March 2023.

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 focused on supporting local governments strengthen their capacities for planning, integrating, implementing and reporting of achieving SDGs. To initiate the process, the Programme team has worked intensively with partner local governments in identifying areas where assistance is needed. The Programme Team, consisted of UNDP and UNICEF staff, made a number of field visits to partner local governments to discuss the individual needs of each local government in order to prepare custom-made activity plans. Each meeting that was organized was attended not only by the administrative staff of local governments but also by the representative of the centers for social welfare giving them



a chance to voice out their issues and needs, particularly in the light of the principle of leaving no one behind (LNOB).



In addition to support provided along the planning cycle, activity plans consist additional set of activities that are deemed priorities to unlock successful implementation of the SDGs. For example, two local governments (Bijeljina and Laktaši) made a special appeal to the Programme to provide assistance in the preparation of the new strategic document, which is critical for further SDGs implementation. As a result, technical assistance is initiated to support cities of Laktaši and Bijeljina in preparing new development strategies that will be aligned with SDG Framework. Both City Councils have adopted decisions on preparing development strategies and appointed working groups that will in the next few months works on strategy preparation. The process of data collection for preparation of situation analysis was initiated. Also, assistance is being provided to the City of Trebinje in

aligning their strategy with the new RS Law on Strategic Planning and Development Management and with the SDG Framework in BiH.

The needs assessment conducted with the partner local governments indicated the need to place special focus on digitalization of processes and services provided by local governments. To support the partner local governments in systemically addressing this issue, the Programme has initiated preparation of digital readiness assessment of three local governments (Bijeljina, Laktaši and Posušje), to be followed by preparation of related road maps. In the second phase the assessments will be conducted for the remaining local governments.

When it comes to supporting the partner local governments in development of large-scale pipeline projects, the Programme has worked on identifying the areas where assistance can be provided. The preparation of training materials is underway, and the first set of training will be initiated in the second half of 2023.

In preparing the activity plans, the Programme had extensive discussions with the partner local governments on how to best deploy grant scheme to support local initiatives that stem from local development strategies and support principle of LNOB. A training programme has been designed to help the partner local governments identify project ideas, develop them into fully pledged project proposals and submit them for approval and subsequently funding. The training will be organized as a six-day practical learning package divided into three two-days modules. Each partner local government will appoint a minimum of five of its employees that will attend the training sessions. After all the sessions are completed, the local governments will have a minimum of two project proposals developed and ready for implementation in the following year.

The inception phase for the implementation of LNOB grants has been successfully completed during the reporting period: partnerships were established with local centers for social welfare, municipal departments for social affairs, civils society organizations (CSOs) and private sector.

To initiate the exchange of best practices among the partner local governments and cantons, the first meeting of all partners was held in May 2023, with 45 participants. In addition to exchange among the partners on their specific approaches and practices, presentations were also made by UNWOMEN on Economy of Care; UNICEF presented how to work on integration and activation of vulnerable groups into society; representatives of Salar⁵ resented preparation of Voluntary Local Review (VLR) and UNDP presented Perspectives of SDG financing. All topics served as a starting point for the local governments and Cantons to relate to SDGs and to initiate integration

⁵ <https://salarinternational.se/salar.67955.html>



of SDGs in their daily work and activities. The aim is to continue with the exchange of best practices and expanding the process to examples from the region and Europe.

With respect to wider promotion of SDG localization and aiming to raise awareness about Agenda 2030, promote the SDG Framework in BiH and its importance as well as to encourage horizontal cooperation among the local communities in the country, the SDG Council in BiH, with support of the Programme, initiated meetings with local governments country-wide, using regional approach. This process has been successfully implemented in nearly one third of all local communities in BiH so far. To facilitate the visits of the SDG Council members to local communities, municipalities and cities were requested to fill out a specially designed questionnaire, developed and executed by the Programme, that provided initial insights into their progress in SDG implementation and integration into strategic documents. Through this comprehensive survey, obstacles and bottlenecks hindering sustainable development have been identified and key priorities for sustainable development have been established, providing a foundation for targeted interventions and initiatives. Furthermore, the involvement of stakeholders from the private sector, civil society, and academic community was strongly encouraged. The visits also involved engaging in dialogues with prominent university centers across the country.



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

The Output 2.2. focuses on the assistance to partner cantons in the process of integrating the SDGs in their planning documents and operationalizing SDGs through sustainable development policies.

Consultations with each partner cantons were conducted to identify their specific needs in relation to implementation of SDGs. The consultations were conducted during the field visits and at a joint event organized in early March 2023 where cantons had an opportunity to exchange their practices and indicate specific types of support needed. As a result, individual, tailor-made activity plans for each canton were prepared and agreed. Each plan consists of five areas where assistance is needed:

- 1) Increasing capacities of cantons to implement development strategies aligned with SDG Framework (planning cycles),
- 2) Support in identification and development of key project ideas that contribute to implementation of SDG Framework,
- 3) Preparation and implementation of the Grant scheme,
- 4) Promotion of partner cantons as leaders of sustainable development and
- 5) Support to realization of SDG Framework and development pathways “Good governance and public sector management” and “Smart Growth”.

In addition to the above, the Programme is supporting the partner cantons in addressing specific issues that hinder smooth implementation of some of the development priorities:

- the Project has launched support to the Assembly of Tuzla Canton related to adjustment of their internal procedures and its alignment with legislation that define planning and implementation of sustainable development priorities.

- support is being provided to Tuzla and West-Herzegovina Canton in defining criteria and procedures for delivering transparent financial support granted through the cantonal budgets which is to be aligned with Sustainable Development Goals.
- for Una-Sana Canton, the assistance is being provided in the preparation of the by-law on regulatory impact assessment.

Once the above-mentioned technical assistance is completed, it may be considered for replication in other cantons.

For the support in development of large-scale pipeline projects, the Programme has worked on the same principle as for the local governments. All the materials for the training have been designed and training delivery will be initiated in the second half of 2023.

Preparations for the launch of the grants scheme for cantons is initiated. The training programme to assist the partner cantons in identifying project ideas addressing sustainable development priorities is to be completed in July 2023. The training is to be organized as six-day practical learning package and participants in the training will be from cantonal development management units and relevant ministries. This will give a chance to all participants to familiarize themselves with the EU practices in project management and implementation of projects as well as to identify priorities that contribute to implementation of the SDG Framework in BiH. Once the training session are finalized, the cantons will have minimum two project proposals developed and ready for implementation in the year 2024.

Overall Management

“Translating the SDGs Framework in BiH into Sustainable and Inclusive Growth (SDG2BiH)”, 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina and in coordination with the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office in BiH.

Although the contract between Sida and UNDP was signed in April 2022, the Programme became fully functional only at the beginning of August 2022 with the transfer of the first tranche of funds for the Programme. UNDP completed hiring procedures and has a fully functional team that implements this Programme.

UNDP assumed full responsibility and accountability for the overall management of the Programme including achieving of the outputs and 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.

On 12th October 2022, the Programme convened its first Programme Board meeting. The Board consists of the representatives of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of BiH, Office of the Prime Minister of the Federation of BiH, Ministry for European Integration and International Cooperation Republika Srpska, Government of Brčko District of BiH as well as UNDP, UNICEF and UN Women. The Programme Board is co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and the representative of the BiH Council of Ministers in the Programme Board. Embassy of Sweden participates in the work of the Board in an observer capacity.

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.

The Programme team is led by the Programme Manager and supported by a Programme Associate and a Programme Assistant. The Programme Team also includes a Programme Coordinator, an SDG Financing Officer; a part-time Policy/Legal Officer; a Circular Economy Officer, a Private Sector Engagement Associate and a part-time Communications Associate. The work of UN Women is implemented by a Coordinator and a part time Project Assistant. The team also includes a Field Project Officer and Field Project Assistant who will support the implementation of relevant activities by UNICEF.

During this reporting period, the Programme deployed a number of national experts that support specific processes and deliver technical assistance, training, or other types of specific services.

Lessons learned

Based on the learnings from the previous similar initiatives, below are some key “lessons learned” that are should be considered during the implementation of this Programme:

- **The participatory and consultative approach** applied, paired with awareness raising and capacity development and on-system support to localising 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 recognised 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 decarbonisation 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

SDG2BiH follows the global UNDPs Gender Equality Seal (2021-2023) initiative that generates incentives for solid work on gender equality and helps to improve organizational efficiency to deliver results and greater consistency of performance. Hence, gender equality principles are at the core of the mandate of UNDP with being one of six signature solutions within current UNDPs Strategic Plan.

Gender equality also represents an important accelerator for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At the UNDP Country Office level gender equality work is being guided by its own Gender Equality Strategy and Action Plan (2021-2025) which provides a localised roadmap to reach the objectives of the corporate UNDP Gender Equality Strategy (2022-2025), and is an important tool for operationalising the gender actions in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (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 the organization of activities, when preparing the criteria for selection of the SDG Business Pioneers, 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).

Finally, the Programme uses gender sensitive language in all documents and carefully design panels, trainings and similar to reflect gender balance.

Visibility

Overall, the Programme's activities had 82 media mentions in 2022 and 57 media mentions in the first six months of 2023. The Programme used social media extensively and with great effect. On UNDP's Facebook page alone, the Programme published 76 posts in 2022, and 53 Facebook posts in the first six months of 2023. 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 the period before the SDG Business Pioneers Award for 2022 ceremony, held on 30 June 2022, the Project promoted all the finalists through videos of each on social media. In total, 27 videos were produced and an additional video, featuring highlights of the ceremony, was produced.

During the SDG Week, 15 events were held and joint branding was implemented for them, as they were practically organised by various UN agencies under joint SDG Week umbrella.



In order to continue building momentum for the 5th edition of SDG Business Pioneers Award in 2023, the Programme ran a social media and Google Ads campaign during the application period. Social media campaign reached more than 570.000 persons. Google Ads campaign was even more effective, with million impressions and 4,000 clicks on SDG BPA banner.

Application process was also promoted at live events held during that period. The campaign, along with other outreach activities, translated into record-breaking numbers of companies and applications. 114 companies applied, compared to 85 companies from 2022. In addition, these companies submitted 180 applications, which is an increase of as much as 75% compared to last year's 103 applications.



Prior to the 2023 SDG Business Pioneers Award ceremony (picture above), the Programme promoted all 31 finalists with special infographics for each of them, published on social media. In the following period, the Programme will continue to promote the winners of the SDG BPA through various visibility products, such as stories, infographics and social media posts.

A public campaign to raise awareness on the impact of unpaid care work on gender equality and women's economic empowerment was launched in January and ended in mid-June. Although final analyses of the campaign have yet to be completed, the media reach has been very impressive, with a total of 63 media appearances: 4 in printed media, 5 in television, 3 on radio and 51 articles on different web portals. All of this is an indication of the high media and public interest in the care economy.

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, the risk level for this Project remains as **medium** attributed mainly to political factors.

Risk	Probability	Type / Impact	Programme response
Deterioration of political stability in the country and at specific government levels, also taking into account 2022 General Elections.	Medium	Political / Medium	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.
Complex, multi-tier governance structure BiH may pose difficulties in aligning SDGs with policies and budgets.	Medium	Political/ Medium	The Programme will seek to mobilise interest and motivation among all government stakeholders. There will be a clear message from the Programme that governments' involvement will be discontinued if relevant engagement and support is not ensured.
Partners fail to ensure financial sources for co-funding sustainable development priorities.	Low	Financial / High	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.	Medium	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.
Force Majeure (e.g. natural hazards and disease outbreaks conditions) impacts Project activities	Medium	Environment / Medium (delays)	The Programme will have a flexible approach, including reprogramming of activities to respond to emerging needs/time frame. The Programme will apply online mode of work if in person capacity development interventions are not possible.

Risk	Probability	Type / Impact	Programme response
Businesses fail to recognize the benefits of green and circular practices to advance business operations	Low	Operational / Low	The assistance to private sector will be designed and implemented to support and reinforce the adoption of green and circular business models. The Programme will also invest in strengthening of business development services capacities, which should contribute to these efforts via improved quality, type and effectiveness of advice. Regular monitoring of recipients of financial support will secure implementation in line with required greening principles, revealing at the same time, potential areas for support for throughout the implementation period.
Insufficient number of businesses / other stakeholders targeted by support measures requirements for financing / having adequate absorption capacities	Low	Operational / Medium	Design of the support measures/financing mechanisms will be informed by the analytical work, including considerations on key stakeholders' absorption capacities and sector-specific needs. This will help determine funding priorities and criteria for eligible applicants. In addition, open days and informative sessions on the application procedures and requirements will be organised to provide additional support to potential applicants as well as to support organizations.
Legislative inertia	Medium	Operational / Medium	An integral part of the Programme are proposals for legislative changes in creative conducive framework for circular economy as well as institutionalising new models and service, including on SDG financing. Recognising that legal reforms are time-consuming and exposed to political risk, the Programme will liaise closely with relevant partner ministries and policy-makers to ensure that the needs and justification of the proposed regulatory documents are fully understood and politically supported. A targeted action aiming to increase capacity and awareness among senior
Decrease of USD exchange rate against SEK/BAM	Low	Financial / High	The Programme will apply pro-active early warning and financial planning and management system.

Synergies with other interventions

- The Programme closely cooperates with the **UN Joint Programme on SDG Financing** (2021-2022) that is supporting institutional stakeholders in designing a financing strategy for the SDGs. Analytical work and strategic documents produced with support of the UN Joint Programme will provide evidence-based inputs for SDG financing interventions to be supported under the SDG2BiH Programme, including on potentials for creating specific SDG financing instruments.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 (989,413.28 USD, exchange rate 1 June 2022) as per FA signed.

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 2023

Outcome 1:	Authorities at state, entity and Brčko District levels effectively work on planning, implementing, monitoring, and reporting on the SDG Framework in BiH	202,618.95 USD
Outcome 2:	Cantonal and local governments actively contribute to implementation of the SDG Framework in BiH.	72,595.97 USD
Project management	Project Management and Operating Costs	45,215.97 USD
Total (incl. 8% GMS and operational costs)		320,430.89 USD

*Note: the total sum does not include staff salaries for the period 1 February – 30 June 2023, due to current transition from Atlas to Quantum operating systems.

In addition, as per UN-to-UN agreements, following transfers have been made towards UN WOMEN and UNICEF:

Transfers to implementing partners		
	Partner	Amount
Year 1 - 2022	UN WOMEN	50,495.00 USD
Year 1 - 2022	UN WOMEN	245,020.00 USD
Year 2 - 2023	UNICEF	92,209.74 USD
Year 2 - 2023	UNICEF	199,282.30 USD
Transfers total		587,007.04 USD