

**DISASTER RISK REDUCTION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA 2019-2023**

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**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

BiH Bosnia and Herzegovina

CSO Civil Society Organization

CSWs Centres for Social Welfare

DRAS Disaster Risk Analysis System

DRR Disaster Risk Reduction

FBiH Entity of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

GBV Gender-Based Violence

IOM International Organization for Migration

JP Joint Programme

LDRRP Local Disaster Risk Reduction Platforms

LSGU Local Self-Government Unit

MISP The Minimum Initial Service Package

RS Entity of Republika Srpska

SDC Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

SOPs Standard Operating Procedures

SRH Sexual and Reproductive Health

ToT Training of trainers

UN United Nations

WHO World Health Organization

**GENERAL PROJECT AND PHASE INFORMATION**

The **“Disaster Risk Reduction for Sustainable Development in Bosnia and Herzegovina“** is a joint intervention supported and financed by the Government of Switzerland and the United Nations (UN), implemented by the UN agencies: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in partnership with domestic authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH).

The long-term Programme vision entails functional Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) governance across various levels and sectors in Bosnia and Herzegovina, throughout three phases. The first Programme phase consists of a four-year plan setting the ground for DRR through basic institutional capacities, coordination mechanisms, and strategic frameworks, with a total budget amounting to USD 4.321.948.

The Project’s overall goal is as follows: ***Local governments in Bosnia and Herzegovina have improved their RR institutional capacities, frameworks, public services, and partnerships, and the population in risk-exposed localities is less vulnerable socially and economically to the effects of disasters and climate change.***

The Programme has two main outcomes, as follows:

* **Outcome 1: At least 10 local governments have adopted DRR-featuring strategies, established partnerships for effective DRR interventions, and financed actions that build community resilience thus are better equipped to prevent and respond to disasters.**
* **Outcome 2:**  **Citizens in target localities, particularly the most vulnerable population groups, have become more resilient to disasters.**

The first Programme phase has been designed as a platform for further horizontal scaling up of a good DRR model at the local level, as well as a springboard to a *bottom-up* strengthening of a country-wide DRR governance framework and capacities. The Joint UN Programme aims to address key DRR priorities identified by local governments and various stakeholders across various sectors: protection and rescue, education, social and child protection, health, and agriculture. The Programme puts special emphasis on improving local DRR coordination mechanisms, as well as affirming risk-informed strategic planning processes with a focus on the most vulnerable population groups.

The Programme’s territorial focus is throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina focusing on a core group of **10 partner local governments** based on a pre-identified longlist of potential partner local governments highly disaster-prone. The selection process was based on the methodology for selecting 10 high-risk Local Self-Government Units (LSGUs) including willingness to actively participate and support the implementation of the Programme. Participating local government partners are **Banja Luka, Bijeljina, Prijedor, Srebrenica, Trebinje in the Republika Srpska (RS); Bihac, Kalesija, Kakanj, Gradačac, Sanski Most in the Federation of BiH (FBiH)**.

The main Programme partners are the Ministry of Security of BiH, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BiH, the Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy of FBiH, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of RS, the Ministry of Health of FBiH, Ministry of Education of FBiH, Ministry of Education and Culture of RS, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of RS, Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry of FBiH, Civil Protection Directorate of RS and Civil Protection Directorate of FBiH.

**STRATEGIC REVIEW AND OUTLOOK**

The fourth year of implementation and per adopted the Programme work plan for 2022, was dedicated to accelerating implementation of most of the activities that were rescheduled from previous period or initially planned for this year. The efforts of the Programme team are sublimed in activity implementation focusing on **delivering small scale measures, mainstreaming DRR priorities in local strategic development documentation and sustaining achievements together** with all Programme partners in Local Self-Government Units (LSGUs), aiming to unlock further support to higher level authorities in applying model of work vertically and horizontally throughout the country.

As approaching to the end of the first phase implementation and in line with recommendation from the Steering Committee members, the Programme team has been involved in preparing and conducting the Final Evaluation of the Programme. By the end of September, **the Final Evaluation is completed** gathering more than 60 stakeholders of the Programme thus reviewing and assessing the overall performance of the Programme, its results, inputs activities, partnerships, and UN-internal set-up, and if and how the delivered outputs contributed to improved local community resilience and more effective prevention, preparedness and response to disasters. The general finding of **the first phase of the Programme is successful** with many of the defined targets (as per the revised project document) to be either achieved or on track to be fully achieved by the end of the Programme in June 2023. Key recommendations are leaned for further **improvement of the Joint Programme administration** (e.g. strengthening inter-UN agency coordination and coherence; engaging with other donors to discuss DRR needs in BiH, etc.) followed by actions **to inform the design of the Phase II Programme** (e.g. revising criteria for local community selection; taking into consideration relevant needs for the Phase II, etc.) including undertaking **steps to conclude the Phase I Programme** (e.g. detail spending plan development and further integration of DRR into local development strategies).

Following the Final Evaluation evidence of the Programme impact in the first phase, the foundation for bottom-up upscaling of DRR strategic solutions is set by demonstrating the effectiveness of an integrated model of disaster risk governance and livelihood enhancement in local communities across various sectors and improving coordination mechanisms and affirming risk-informed strategic planning processes with a focus on the most vulnerable population groups. Therefore, the Programme team has been engaged in conducting consultations with all institutional stakeholders from the first phase, including other relevant stakeholders, in **defining the priorities and designing the document for the second phase** of the Programme. This process is coupled with the information and momentum that Bosnia and Herzegovina progressed in becoming a **member of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism** that will improve the capacities of the country for prevention, preparedness, and response to disasters. Furthermore, the Council of Ministers BiH adopted information for drafting and **designing a new country DRR Strategy** that will with the **new upcoming entity civil protection legislation** significantly push forward the DRR transformation agenda thus allowing the Programme achievements and model of work to be mainstreamed.

Following the work plan, the Programme team managed to organize, communicate, coordinate, and implement most of the expected results for 2022. Achievements made are visible in finalizing most of the sectoral activities aimed to **enhance institutional capacities, procedures, and practice of professionals including implementing a small part of defined priorities** thus delivering 35% of the total budget only in 2022. Considering that many results planned for 2022 are realized, the long-term impact of the Programme is still a challenge and conditioned by **the absence of country-level leadership** in the DRR portfolio in BiH. Also, there is a need **to develop vertical DRR coordination mechanisms** as well as horizontal, country-level DRR policy and strategy frameworks and align the DRR work with the provision of the Sendai Framework and broader SDG agenda. It is evident that there is a need to **move from project-based DRR culture to a more systematic and evidence-based DRR preparedness and response culture** at all levels of Government in BiH through formalization, institutionalization, legal recognition, and acceptance of local DRR Platforms and DRR frameworks.

**INTRODUCTION**

The Programme remained focused and continued to **enhance the capacities, procedures and policies of Local Self-Government Units** (LSGUs), through improving skills of professionals for cross-sectoral strategic thinking and acting thus positioning, rooting and streamlining local coordination mechanism into the work of the DRR management system across different layers of authorities. The Programme efforts and setup kept the focus on advocating and implementing an evidence-based approach ensuring that development from disasters is shifted and transformed to multisectoral management of risks generated and accumulated on an ongoing basis coupled with adequate **investments in human and institutional capacities** of all relevant development sectors. The logic and benefit behind joint work based on evidence, promotion, and timely reaction in resolving some of identified priorities and measures clearly ensure long-term vision through regulatory and policy guidance toward functional institutional management in disaster risk reduction in the country.

Having this said, stakeholders in the Programme from the local communities grasped opportunities and **remained focused and actively** collaborated in all Programme activities throughout 2022 displayed immense **progress in understanding risk management**, and further advocated for a fully strategic merging of all actions with decision-makers at the local level but also with higher-level authorities through Steering Committee collaboration mechanism. Furthermore, the Programme achievements and recognition are evidenced within national achievements, best practices, and the ways forward in the achievement of the objectives and priorities of the Sendai Framework, through conducting **the first Voluntary National Report of the Midterm Review** of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The positive momentum was noted especially toward a more complex understanding of the changing nature of the risk including **risk** **governance and management** where the risk governance system has evolved during the recent period, allowing comprehensive risk reduction. The development planning process, **especially on the local level**, gained momentum and evident progress was achieved with understanding and further strengthening the incorporation of risk reduction into different developmental and planning frameworks, contributing to enhanced resilience-building.

From a sustainability point of view, the Programme team with the local stakeholders **continues to promote, collaborate and seek** systemic solutions for integrating the Programme achievements toward local decision-makers and higher levels of authorities that are part of the Steering Committee collaboration mechanism. As experienced and stated by the local partners, sustainability concerns are mainly related to **formalization, institutionalization, legal recognition, and acceptance** of local DRR Platforms and DRR frameworks, making them widely accepted as effective tools for disaster risk governance in the country. Specifically, the key risk factors that need to be addressed at the current stage of Programme implementation involve a) **absence of legal recognition of the DRR platform**, b) **no stable or guaranteed sources of finance for the DRR platform and disaster risk governance measures**; and c) **limited human and institutional capacities** of various sectors involved in DRR, with moderate staff turnover rate, to regularly update the risk assessment and implement the DRR platform activities.

**OUTCOMES ACHIEVED FOR 2022**

**OUTCOME 1 – At least 10 local governments have adopted DRR-featuring strategies, established partnerships for effective DRR interventions, and financed actions that build community resilience thus are better equipped to prevent and respond to disasters.**

As per the Programme's accelerated dynamics in fulfilling the objectives for 2022, most of the team’s efforts were made to continue capacitating LDRRPs professionals, **particularly in advocating for further embedding the local DRR platforms into municipality modus operandi, including voicing out the need to the higher-level authorities for official recognition of local DRR platform model and other relevant results into their procedural work.**

Within this outcome significant to mention is a continuation of **the pathway of mainstreaming DRR cross-sectoral into the strategic framework of local governments**, following relevant international DRR frameworks and guidelines. Achieved results display the finalization of**local policy and capacity-building** development processes following discussion to sustain the Programme results with all Programme partners. In line with the previously developed entity-level framework Action Plans on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (SRH&GBViE), previously supported by the Programme, the remaining 3 Action plans are developed for local DRR partners in 2022. On the capacity building front and based on the earlier implementation plans, worth to mention is that VISUS methodology is implemented throughout **all 10 local communities encompassing 40 schools** thus providing evidence-based information to respective educational ministries and local communities’ authorities for further action, enabling them to identify necessary upgrades to the safety measures of surveyed schools.

To ensure the sustainability of the work of the platforms in all local communities in the future, the discussion with all partners continued to operationalize the modality of intersectoral work and make it an integral part of the institutional mechanism of action in all local communities. The proposed modality of DRR platform integration is acceptable to most partners in local communities where the disaster risk reduction platform will be **officially recognized** through existing documents in such a way that the local disaster risk reduction platform is appointed/organized as an expert-operational team. Nevertheless, it was suggested by all platform members and professionals **to continue activities towards higher levels of government, mainly with the entity administrations of civil protection**, so that the mode of operation of the platform as well as other positive results of the Programme (e.g. DRAS system, etc.) **find** their **place in within future procedures and operational guidelines**. Regarding the digitalization progress, the Programme Team supported partner institutions in providing further capacity building and technical support in transforming and positioning the DRAS system into the regular work of civil protection administrations, by jointly communicating and designing an enchiridion for the DRAS system development and utilization in the coming period.

Furthermore, the focus was to follow up on the completed consolidated cross-sectoral risk assessment process of adoption in all local communities. So far, **50% of all local communities** managed to prepare and adopt these documents while the process for the remaining partners’ documentation adoption is mainly conditioned by aligning these documents with new regulations in Republika Srpska and expected to occur in 2023. All LSGUs management continued with committed mainstreaming of earlier identified DRR priorities and measures into the **strategic development process.** Due to the different dynamicsof all local communities accompanied by a need for aligning all local strategic documents (strategies and action plans) with relatively new guidelines for integral strategic development in Republika Srpska and Federation BiH, some of LSGUs partners (Bijeljina, Gradacac, Bihac and Sanski Most) commenced their work since existing strategies are expiring by the end of 2022. This process will follow in other local communities toward adapting strategies or action plans in 2023.

**OUTCOME 2 – Citizens in partner localities, particularly the most vulnerable population groups, have become more resilient to disasters**

Under this Outcome and during this reporting period, most of the team’s efforts were made to continue capacitating LDRRPs professionals, **implementing policy development and small-scale measures in several sectors, and testing the procedural know-how of DRR platform members by simulating different scenarios throughout joint simulation exercise.** The Programme team kept implementing of remainder the work and together with partners executed activities relevant to improving **DRR platform members’ skills and capacities, operating procedures, action planning, and know-how** in civil protection, social and child protection, health, and agriculture sectors.

Further achievements were made in **enhancing the capacities** of all partner LSGUs and enabling them to address disaster risks in an **integrated, vulnerability-sensitive and effective manner**, contributing to community resilience for 632,331 (323,291 F) citizens living in these areas. Less capacitated sectoral actions that were prioritized as part of small-scale measures through valid cross-sectoral risk assessments and action plans are mainly realized in addressing further capacity development through procurement of specific materials, and equipment or conducting education, construction work, and digitalizing their work. Most of the **cross-sectoral work is completed** thus making preconditions for LSGUs **to continue investing** in the ownership, commitment, and sustainability of DRR interventions through the formal adoption of DRR documentation and their adequate budgeting. On the hand supporting LSGUs in improving further operational and procedural engagement of professionals in an emergency, a step forward is made in the **development and adoption of standard operating procedures for the protection of children in emergencies**. Furthermore, **guiding documents, practical and communication know-how**, and promotional/practical material and equipment are delivered aim to improve the knowledge and practice of health and non-health professionals to effectively address specific healthcare needs of children, youth, adolescents, and women in emergency settings enhanced.

Upon completion of all activities in 2022, the simulation exercise was organized aiming to create and sustain **a culture of preparing and allowing for stress-testing plans** and systems of risk-exposed communities to reduce challenges in the face of a crisis. Since all consolidated risk assessments are developed, the idea was to enable all professionals (**49 (13 F) professionals** from local DRR platforms eventually involved) to participate and experience unique opportunities where all relevant sectors have different tasks prepared to test them in real-life scenarios.

The Programme efforts in 2022 contributed to further **identifying priority DRR actions** that increased community resilience based on multi-sectoral risk assessments and further DRR-featuring local strategies in all LSGUs. In 2022, there were **31 identified and realized initiatives (12 in civil protection, 10 in social/child, and 9 in education)** that showcased local authorities and decision-makers the way forward for **further system smart investments and strengthening cross-sectoral measures** in making cities resilient to disasters. Priority DRR action implementation remains a priority for 2023, particularly in civil protection.

**OUTPUTS AND PERFORMANCE ACCORDING TO YEARLY PLAN OF OPERATION 2022**

As per the approved 2022 Annual Work Plan, the Programme team focused on implementing planned activities in line with adopted timelines and activities.

**OUTCOME 1 – At least 10 local governments have adopted DRR-featuring strategies, established partnerships for effective DRR interventions, and financed actions that build community resilience thus are better equipped to prevent and respond to disasters.**

Output 1.1 Local-level DRR Platforms are established to serve as locally-owned DRR coordination mechanisms and capacitated to mainstream DRR into local policies and strategies, and support community resilience-building.

As part of the further capacitating of LDRRPs in all 10 LSGUs, progress was made in further anchoring the model of platforms in all local communities. This is done by communicating clear messages and requirements from the local community professionals who are stating that more systematic embedment of procedural and policy guidance is needed to have a proper fundament for further functioning of local DRR platforms. This will ensure decision-makers clear guidance but also an obligation to introduce and nurture such mechanism of work.

In order to ensure the sustainability and long-term DRR effort of LDRRPs in all 10 LSGUs, partners were supported to develop future strategies and action planning regarding DRR. In addition to Action plans completed for seven LSUGs in the previous year, during 2022, the Action Plans for SRH and GBV in emergencies were finalized for three DRR local communities from Federation BiH (Gradacac, Kalesija and Kakanj). Both Entity Ministries of Health, together with relevant disaster risk reduction experts from local communities, joined their efforts to improve DRR preparedness and response of relevant professionals by including the Minimum Initial Package of Services for sexual and reproductive health in emergencies (MISP) in local development strategies. The proposals for MISP inclusion in the remaining 9 LSGUs strategies (4 in FBiH and 5 in RS; Kakanj was resolved earlier) were presented in each local community and submitted to the coordinators of the DRR Platforms.

Output 1.2 Local government’s disaster risk assessment capacities are improved based on evidence, innovative technologies and vulnerability considerations.

In collaboration with the UNESCO Chair on Intersectoral Safety for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience SPRINT-Lab at the University of Udine, and the Universities of Sarajevo and Banja Luka, a training of BiH VISUS Survey Coordinators and Teams was completed fundamentally aiming to improve institutional capacities, and to support frameworks and partnerships at the local government level across Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as among various educational authorities in terms of school safety improvements. VISUS workshop was organized for the period from 17 to 20 May 2022, hosted by the Faculty of Architecture, Civil Engineering, and Geodesy of the University of Banja Luka. The workshop was led by a team of experts from the SPRINT-Lab and gathered four (1 F) professors and twelve (10 F) students from the Faculty of Architecture, University of Sarajevo, and the host faculty. After the successful both theoretical and practical learning exercises, the two local survey teams conducted 40 field school surveys across 10 selected project communities across BiH: Bihac, Sanski Most, Gradacac, Kalesija, Kakanj, Banja Luka, Prijedor, Bijeljina, Trebinje, and Srebrenica. In order to support the VISUS survey execution phase, a VISUS portal service that includes VISUS Bosnia and Herzegovina repository, web maps, and a portal for surveys was developed and customized for implementing the surveys in the BiH schools. Moreover, both Banja Luka and Sarajevo VISUS survey teams were provided with VISUS-recommended ITC equipment that will enable them to perform surveys in a professional manner. The final VISUS survey reports have been disseminated to the respective educational ministries and local communities’ authorities for further action, enabling them to identify necessary upgrades to the safety measures of surveyed schools, and providing tools and information they need to make science-backed decisions relating to where and how to invest available resources for improving school safety, and more specifically, benefit students, teachers, and other school staff members, by establishing a safer working and studying environment. The trained BiH VISUS Survey Coordinators remain the key partner in future school safety assessments in BiH and may provide expert support in scientifically based decision-making processes. In total 40 schools were assessed in BiH: 20 in Republika Srpska and 20 in Federation BiH, out of which 38 primary and 2 secondary schools, involving and considering the safety of overall 18,895 beneficiaries (M 49%, F 51%): students 16,744 (F 47%), teaching personnel 1,598 (F 71%), and non-teaching personnel (F 68%).

Support to partner institutions in more significant positioning of the DRAS system continued through the process of acquiring servers and the necessary supporting IT equipment for DRAS hosting to enable the Administration of Civil Protection of Republika Srpska (RUCZ RS) to fully manage and administer the DRAS system for local communities in the Republika Srpska. As for the Civil Protection Administration in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the negotiations regarding the integration of the DRAS system are still ongoing, and it is expected that the civil protection will plan the budget for the acquisition of servers and allocate one person for the DRAS administrator. The Programme Team supported partner institutions in providing additional education for the use of the DRAS system in November and will continue to provide support in creating a clear vision for the development and use of the DRAS system in the coming period.

Output 1.3 Municipal/city DRR strategic and action planning frameworks are upgraded based on multi-sectoral perspective, with focus on the vulnerable population groups.

In 2022, the Programme supported the integration of social and protection and education DRR components in local development strategies in 9 locations (1 was completed in 2021). The integration efforts included relevant DRR data from sectoral risk assessments as well as extraction of strategic priority measures from DRR plans of centres for social welfare and schools. Integration was implemented in stages by having a dedicated field consultation with DRR teams in education and social protection in 9 locations, involving 93 (52 in FBiH, 41 in RS) local DRR Platform and sectoral working group members. They produced detailed DRR strategic prioritization reports which resulted in 9 proposed DRR-informed local development strategies, with a focus on social protection and education). Proposals were reviewed by local sectoral teams and DRR Platforms, aiming to increase sustainability and long-term ownership of inclusive DRR measures focused on risk-proofing of schools and preschools and centres for social welfare as critical social service providers before, during and after crises and emergencies. Bearing in mind that all local communities have officially committed to translating priorities for disaster risk reduction, consolidated vulnerability assessments have been adopted in 5 local communities (Srebrenica, Kakanj, Sanski Most, Kalesija, Bihać) and the adoption of the remaining assessments is expected in 2023. Also, a development strategy with the necessary elements of disaster risk reduction was adopted in Kakanj Municipality and the integration of priorities in other local communities is expected in 2023.

**OUTCOME 2 – Citizens in partner localities, particularly the most vulnerable population groups, have become more resilient to disasters**

Output 2.1. Local level capacities for floods and landslides prevention and preparedness are enhanced through capacity development, prevention measures and awareness raising.

Priority DRR actions that will increase community resilience are identified based on multi-sectoral risk assessments in all 10 partner LSGUs. Implementation of these actions has started in five LSGUs in 2021 and in the remaining five LGSUs in 2022. All priority DRR actions will be fully implemented in 2023.

Priority DRR actions in Bijeljina and Srebrenica that are implemented in 2021 were related to the procurement of flood rescue equipment such as rescue boats, outboard boat engines, boat trailers, 4x4 vehicles, personal rescue equipment for rescuers, and most necessary IT equipment for civil protection services. Priority DRR actions in, Sanski Most and Bihac are partially implemented in 2021 and were related to flooding response equipment and 4x4 vehicle in Bihac and establishing the center for early warning, alerting, and informing of citizens in Sanski Most. Construction of a flood drainage channel along Sana River in Prijedor has started in 2021 but due to complex property relations between the City of Prijedor and private landowners, this activity has been canceled. In 2022, all priority DRR actions in remaining partner LSGUs are identified and started. Two landslides were rehabilitated in Banja Luka and in Kalesija two landslides were rehabilitated as well. In Gradačac one landslide was rehabilitated. In Sanski Most, regulation of the Radinovac Stream in the length of 840 m was done. In Bihać, procurement of equipment for Urban Search And Rescue (USAR) unit such as a mobile compressor, cut-off machine, two chainsaws, mobile power generator, and toolbox with tools. In Kakanj, Project Documentation for the rehabilitation of one landslide, procurement of a high-capacity centrifugal water pump, and riverbed cleaning of the Trstionica River were implemented. In Bijeljina, the reconstruction of the access ramp for rescue boats to the Sava River in Bijeljina and the procurement of one drone for the civil protection service were done. Training and certification of 35 voluntary firefighters (Bijeljina 10; Prijedor 8; Trebinje 17) were implemented. Procurement processes for flood rescue equipment in Prijedor and fire rescue equipment for Trebinje have been started in 2022 and implementation of these actions will be conducted in 2023.

Output 2.2. Safe school environments in partner localities are established through strengthening school capacities for disaster management and risk reduction.

The Programme continued its partnership with World Vision International (WVI) in BiH to support 10 school disaster management teams comprised of stakeholders such as teachers, school management, parents, LDRRPs, and CSOs. The schools received technical and financial support to implement small-scale interventions tailored to their needs and priorities. Nine schools completed their projects, including installing fire alarms, setting up video surveillance, repairing of heating system, and procuring fire extinguishers and first aid kits. Further, the Programme continued to provide training opportunities for 94 teachers and school staff (out of which 53 are female) were provided with training opportunities on how to integrate DRR into their teaching plans, reaching around 3,370 (1,550 girls) children. Evacuation drills were held in eight schools in partnership with civil protection, police, ambulance, Red Cross, and fire departments, followed by stakeholder debriefings on how to improve evacuation protocols.

About 7,500 child-friendly leaflets with guidelines on what to do in case of emergencies were distributed and awareness-raising activities were organized for students on the International Day of DRR (October 13th). The conference Safe School Environment- Messages and Recommendations was held in September 2022, aiming to promote good DRR practices in the education sector. Representatives of competent and coordinating ministries of education, civil protection, LDRRPs, parents, and children attended, resulting in 14 priority recommendations for improving DRR in education, further shared with all education authorities in BiH.

Output 2.3. Institutional preparedness and DRR capacities of social and child protection systems in partner localities are strengthened.

Based on adopted 10 Crisis Preparedness and Response Action Plans of centers for social welfare (DRR Plans of CSWs), the priority measures were implemented in 2022 through small-grants support. This resulted in directly and indirectly benefitting 39,231 (16,947 F) social protection beneficiaries, including 10,483 children (5,032 F) as well as enhancing DRR capacities of more than 200 social protection professionals to ensure service continuity in crisis. This was achieved through DRR skills-building exercises and training, the provision of protective DRR equipment and small-scale retrofitting of CSW premises, the establishment of DRR-informed databases of beneficiaries, and the provision of IT equipment.

Through these Action Plans implementations, the most vulnerable social protection beneficiaries mentioned above and identified through risk assessments, notably families and children from economically deprived households, single-parent households, as well as people and children with disabilities, were empowered to apply DRR skills by identifying risks in their communities and demonstrating adequate behavioral skills in emergencies, accessing prevention and protection services and emergency providers during and after a crisis, coupled with crisis response equipment and tested through disaster simulation drills. This was coupled with community-level DRR awareness raising focused on the role and services provided by CSWs in emergencies, in coordination with civil protection. Furthermore, UNICEF advocated maximizing ownership and sustainability of small-scale project results, leading to 10 CSWs leveraging 18 percent of co-funding to implement Action Plans (APs) with long-term commitments being mainstreamed in 10 local development strategies. Ten APs were tested in joint field crisis simulation exercises in close partnership with the disaster management sector.

Furthermore, the Programme supported the development and adoption of standard operating procedures (SOP) for the protection of children in emergencies. In close cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of Republika Srpska and the Association of Social Service Workforce professionals of Republika Srpska, Programme supported the preparation and adoption of SoPs for the CSWs in five municipalities in Republika Srpska which have been adopted. In FBIH, in close cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and in partnership with World Vision, centers for social welfare in five FBiH locations were supported to develop and adopt SoPs for the protection of children in emergency situations.

Output 2.4. Preparedness and DRR capacities of local governments and healthcare institutions in partner localities to effectively address specific health-care needs of children, youth and adolescents, and women in emergency settings enhanced.

In cooperation with the Institutes of Public Health of the Federation BiH and Republika Srpska, the Programme supported six workshops in the field of Interpersonal / Direct Communication on immunization and 140 (124 F) health workers, from 10 target locations in DRR JP participated. The education program was developed by UNICEF and John Hopkins center for communication programs while educators were experts from the Federation BiH and Republika Srpska who have undergone training organized by UNICEF and Johns Hopkins Center.

Training content included benefits of professional and technical aspects of immunization: how vaccines work and contribute to health, data on coverage and trends, disease risks and immunization calendar, procedures and protocols for the correctness of vaccines, indecision regarding immunization, different types of vaccines against COVID-19 and mechanism of action of different types of vaccines, regular vaccination according to the immunization calendar during the COVID-19 pandemic. By improving the knowledge and skills of healthcare workers in interpersonal communication as well as in media relations, it can significantly improve the scope of vaccination. The analysis of the tests concluded that training had a significant impact on the change of knowledge and attitudes of the participants, with improved perception of the intersection of the health care worker with parents/guardians, as well as that the health care worker’s ability to give an adequate answer to questions about immunization.

Furthermore, through partnerships with the Public Health Institute of Republika Srpska (PHI RS) and NGO Fenix, the Programme supported an increase in the knowledge, awareness, and accountability of 10 primary healthcare centers in providing quality breastfeeding support to mothers/families. This resulted in 10 Breastfeeding Support Centers formed within Pediatric Departments and equipped to provide support to families from pregnancy to early parenthood through evidence-based instruction and resources, as part of an integrative health care service for lactation and postpartum.

This service has a critical significance also during emergencies when decreased food and nutrition resources can harm the health and well-being of mothers and babies. The staff of BFSCs provides clinical support to mothers to overcome the challenges to establish and maintain breastfeeding. Throughout 2022, additional 140 (119 F) health professionals (pediatricians, pediatric nurses, home visiting nurses, gynecologists, midwives, family medicine doctors, and family medicine nurses) improved their knowledge and capacities in supporting new mothers in breastfeeding and promoting exclusive breastfeeding practices before, during and after emergencies in selected municipalities. These efforts were summed up in the developed Manual on providing support to breastfeeding.

Close at hand, the MISP for Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) in emergencies has a series of crucial, lifesaving activities required to respond to the SRH and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) related needs of affected populations at the onset of a humanitarian crisis, continued to be implemented by appropriately trained health and non-health professionals. Through 7 MISP training conducted in 2022, a total of 175 professionals were trained, of which 43 (34 F) health professionals, and 83 (46 F) non-health professionals, including but not limited to DRR Platforms members, social and protection services, police force and more, and 49 (31 F) youths involved in the development and DRR preparedness and response in their respective communities. In addition to the training done earlier on in the project, this brings the total number of 252 trained professionals. With the above-mentioned results, the number of trained professionals exceeded the target initially foreseen by the project.

In addition, educational and advocacy material for the 10 LSGUs and the general public was developed. These included brochures on “Safe Motherhood in emergencies” targeted for pregnant women and their families to be distributed in emergencies; informative pocket-size leaflets for the professionals and general public explaining MISP objectives; and posters for the key DRR offices in the LSGUs which report the contact of the SRH coordinator as well as the course of life-saving actions according to MISP. SRH coordinators and relevant offices were also provided with the list of professionals trained on MISP in their respective communities, as well as “dignity kits” for GBV survivors, to be distributed shall the need arise.

Output 2.5. Capacities of agriculture sector and vulnerable farmers in partner localities to increase disaster preparedness and reduce disaster losses are strengthened.

Based on previous capacity-building initiatives with farmers participating from each local community, activities continued to be implemented in promoting and practicing Farmer Field Schools in 2022. In each local community, Farmer Field groups organized a field day to showcase primarily local policymakers and other professionals their previous work and made an effort to utilize this methodology. As reported earlier, 150 farmers (57 F) in total were trained and aware of DRR good practices.

The Programme intervention continued to enhance coordination and collaboration in disaster risk reduction and management activities at the various levels (local to national) and across sectors and stakeholders focusing on agriculture through regular information exchange and participating in different events organized to support the agriculture sector. This work resulted in connecting other FAO initiatives thus supporting the local community work (USK Canton and Bihac will continue to develop agriculture strategy at the cantonal level with relevant elements for the City of Bihac development strategy) in further strengthening the agriculture sector.

Output 2.6. Local level capacities, tools and procedures for disaster preparedness are tested in practice to improve cross-sectoral coordination for effective disaster response.

To promote a culture of DRR and enhance preparedness for effective response, the simulation exercise (SimEx) was organized to support the preparation of risk-exposed communities and allow for stress-testing plans and systems aiming to reduce challenges in the face of a crisis. The simulation exercise is based on the “Emergency Simulation Exercise Scenario”, a complementary report to the “Review and Summary of Risk Assessments of Municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina”. The scenario was designed from existing risk assessments of each municipality and consisted of a General Scenario for SimEx Bosnia and Herzegovina, followed by 10 scenarios for each municipality: Banja Luka, Bihać, Bijeljina, Gradačac, Kakanj, Kalesija, Prijedor, Sanski Most, Srebrenica, and Trebinje.

The guiding principles for delivering this SimEx were to practice and assess emergency response structures at strategic and operational levels (including emergency and contingency plans and procedures as well as human and technical capacities), improve inter-institutional and cross-sectoral cooperation and provide lessons learned and recommendations for improvement of the emergency response system in targeted local governments. The methodology has been guided by risk assessments, preparedness plans, SOPs, business continuity plans, and other relevant documents and tools specific to each of the 10 municipalities both developed within the JP DRR or previously existing in municipalities. It has been ensured that a multisectoral approach (protection and rescue, health, education, social protection, agriculture) and focus on vulnerable categories of the population (children, women with a focus on pregnant women and survivors of gender-based violence, elderly, people with disabilities, etc.) are cross-cutting segments of the simulation exercise.

The simulation exercise took place in Prijedor, Bosnia, and Herzegovina, from the 28th to the 30th of November 2022. In total, 8 out of 10 municipalities attended the exercise: Banja Luka, Bihać, Bijeljina, Gradačac, Kakanj, Prijedor, Sanski Most, and Trebinje encompassing 49 (13 F) professionals from local DRR platforms.

All DRR platform members are previously prepared and informed about the exercise, which included basic information about the general scenario. During the exercise, each municipality was provided with injects, i.e., additional descriptions of the main scenario related to several sectors: protection & rescue, agriculture, education, health & child protection. Also, questions were provided relevant to the recovery period (one month after the hazardous events).

Key takeaways and findings from all involved participants emphasize the multisectoral approach during this exercise as a unique opportunity for experience, information, and knowledge exchange among different municipalities and professionals. Also, participants underlined that the exercise enabled them to identify areas that lack cooperation among sectors, as well as gaps requiring more collaboration. Most participants expressed contentment that the exercise was multisectoral and that the scenario was highly complex and designed in a way that required multisectoral problem-solving, which was different from previous exercises which focused mainly on civil protection.

Besides learnings through the SimEx, participants stated several areas of improvement highlighting a need to enhance education and conduct awareness-raising campaigns about disaster risk management (particularly general public as well as politicians), improve early warning systems related to earthquakes, and have more experience exchange events, both locally but also on a regional level.

**TRANSVERSAL THEMES**

Human rights and an inclusive approach to DRR continued to be an integrative element of DRR JP interventions in 2022. Over the course of the **development of child protection DRR SoPs**, a specific focus was placed on vulnerable children through addressing protection risks that carry a high likelihood in emergencies, such as family separation, violence, neglect, and abuse. These procedures provide a formal referral pathway for ensuring child rights are being protected in emergencies with adequate care provision and support to entire families. Furthermore, the implementation of DRR social protection action plans was informed by targeting the most vulnerable social protection beneficiaries as identified in risk assessments **to ensure equity and inclusion aspects** are covered in project assistance targeting (e.g. distribution of DRR protective equipment, awareness-raising activities, simulation drills, etc.). vulnerability targeting was fully informed by community-specific context – e.g. in some communities, families of people and children with vulnerabilities prevailed, while in some the focus on minorities was prioritized (e.g. Roma population in Kakanj Municipality).

Furthermore, social inclusion elements were strongly integrated into education and social protection DRR mainstreaming efforts in local development strategies. This was ensured through **focusing formulation of DRR measures** to ensure equality and equity aspects are covered through making education services more resilient and accessible pre, during, and after emergencies and social protection services being flexible to cover additional beneficiaries or reprioritize focus to those affected by emergencies. All DRR measures integrated into strategies are **informed by vulnerability data on children and families** extracted from risk assessments of schools and CSWs.

More to add is that progress has been made in promoting and embedding gender-sensitive planning and teaching extracting priorities related to improving practice, procedures, and know-how to the SRH and GBV. Further strategic planning in all 10 selected locations will **enable practitioners and decision-makers strategic guidance** based on evidence on how to address priorities and respond to the needs of affected populations at the onset of a humanitarian crisis.

Even though Bosnia and Herzegovina taking small steps in adequate prioritization of DRR and climate change through the strategic framework, steps forward have been made in addressing these matters in local communities involved in Programme. The progress entails **applying development-oriented and multi-sectoral thinking in the design of DRR efforts** at the local level by local DRR platforms. The first palpable result is in Kakanj municipality with an already adopted strategy with DRR and climate change elements. Partners in Prijedor, Bijeljina, Gradacac, Bihac, and Sanski Most commenced their similar work to Kakanj since existing strategies in these local communities are expiring in 2023. Change occurs to happen where all local communities are aware and on track to ensure policy guidance to introduce and tackle DRR, climate change, and environmental concerns and risks (such as floods, droughts, landslides, earthquakes, hurricanes, and/or climate change-induced extreme events) aiming to transform the system into more green and progressive development of various sustainable instruments and measures at a different level in the country.

**FINANCES AND MANAGEMENT**

Considering the risk monitoring and management, the Programme team kept providing support to further mainstreaming DRR into existing modus operandi for all Programme stakeholders thus promoting and advocating for transformative approach toward whole of government approach in DRR matters. This work encompassed utilizing different participative methods through capacity building, regular information share and joint work toward planning and executing Programme tasks. As a result, all planned activities are implemented according to the plan for 2022, including conducting the Final Evaluation of the Programme. Worthy to mention is that besides UNDP and agreed on dynamics for 2023, all other agencies completed their work in 2022.

Due to the dynamics of the Programme implementation and held consultations with the Swiss Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina, **certain changes regarding the Programme document and the budget with a focus on Programme savings** occurred in 2022. Considering the vast utilization of funds in 2022 and made savings throughout the process, participating agencies have reviewed the work plan, and proposed adjustments to the budget. All proposed changes are presented to the Steering Committee members where the total Programme budget remained unchanged and amounts to USD 4,321,948.

As of December 31, 2022, total Programme costs for the entire 2022, including SDC and UN expenditures (with Gov BiH expenditures in 2022), amounted to **USD 1,563,130.87[[1]](#footnote-1)** or 36.16**%** of the overall Programme budget. The cumulative costs of the Programme, including SDC, UN, and GoV BiH expenditures, amounted to **USD 3,899,020.96** or 90.20%.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Designation** | **Budgeted, period****2019-2023** | **Cumulative realized, period** **01 January 2019 - 31 December 2022** | **Realized,** **period 01 January - 31 December 2022[[2]](#footnote-2)** | **SDC** | **UN** | **Gov BiH** | **%** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Administrated Programme funds** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***Outcome 1*** | **734,307** | **637,778.13** | **132,887.52** | **103,539.46** | **29,348.06** | **0** | **18%** |
|  | Output 1.1 | 156,867 | *153,898.97* | 41,511.25 | 26,347.99 | 15,163.26 | 0 | 26% |
|  | Output 1.2 | 455,218 | *399,445.70* | 70,431.60 | 56,987.60 | 13,444.00 | 0 | 15% |
|  | Output 1.3 | 122,222 | *84,433.46* | 20,944.67 | 20,203.87 | 740.80 | 0 | 17% |
| ***Outcome 2*** | **2,071,172** | **1,716,650.68** | **1,018,134.90** | **479,589.55** | **422,753.09** | **115,792.26** | **49%** |
|  | Output 2.1 | 1,030,921 | *758,429.10* | 480,317.25 | 157,255.85 | 207,269.14 | 115,792.26 | 46% |
|  | Output 2.2 | 214,413 | *193,231.80* | 100,316.34 | 43,589.62 | 56,726.72 | 0 | 47% |
|  | Output 2.3 | 228,314 | *206,276.76* | 95,076.83 | 67,344.21 | 27,732.62 | 0 | 41% |
|  | Output 2.4 | 374,905 | *354,852.94* | 220,154.56 | 115,339.77 | 104,814.79 | 0 | 59% |
|  | Output 2.5 | 127,269 | *127,109.16* | 45,519.00 | 45,519.00 | 0 | 0 | 36% |
|  | Output 2.6 | 95,350 | *76,750.92* | 76,750.92 | 50,541.10 | 26,209.82 | 0 | 80% |
| **Project Management and Operational Costs** | **985,430** | **962,873.32** | **240,119.97** | **90,879.01** | **149,240.96** | **-** | **24%** |
|  | *3.1. UNDP* | *366,353* | *298,754.85* | 49,848.04 | 45,407.58 | 4,440.46 | - | 13% |
|  | *3.2. UNICEF* | *397,235* | *378,913.73* | 127,396.47 | 15,108.40 | 112,288.07 | - | 32% |
|  | *3.3. UNESCO* | *60,000* | *100,102.00* | 11,250.00 | 0 | 11,250.00 | - | 19% |
|  | *3.4. UNFPA* | *76,880* | *117,090.05* | 36,479.47 | 15,217,03 | 21,262.44 | - | 47% |
|  | *3.5. FAO* | *84,962* | *68,012.70* | 15,146.00 | 15,146.00 | 0 | - | 18% |
| **UN Common Coordination Costs** | **237,741** | **214,967.43** | **52,159.70** | **52,159.70** | **0** | **-** | **22%** |
|  | *4.1. Staff* | *203,461* | *185,530.04* | 40,789.86 | 40,789.86 | 0 | - | 20% |
|  | *4.2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials* | *20,480* | *15,579.36* | 5,156.12 | 5,156.12 | 0 | - | 25% |
|  | *4.3. Travel* | *13,800* | *13,858.03* | 6,213.72 | 6,213.72 | 0 | - | 45% |
| **Other Joint Activities** | **133,720** | **91,057.30** | **55,950.19** | **55,950.19** | **0** | **-** | **42%** |
|  | *5.1. Evaluation and plans* | *45,941* | *34,654.15* | 33,413.37 | 33,413.37 | 0 | - | 73% |
|  | *5.2. Communication and visibility* | *74,300* | *49,418.56* | 18,624.17 | 18,624.17 | 0 | - | 25% |
|  | *5.3. Miscellaneous* | *8,320* | *3,571.87* | 1,855.56 | 1,855.56 | 0 | - | 22% |
|  | *5.4. Steering Committee and Advisory Board meetings* | *5,159* | *3,412.72* | 2,057.09 | 2,057.09 | 0 | - | 40% |
| **Indirect Programme Costs** | **179,439** | **159,901.83** | **63,878.60** | **63,878.60** | **0** | **-** | **35%** |
|  | *UNDP* | *64,105* | *60,535.39* | 18,555.38 | 18,555.38 | 0 | - | 29% |
|  | *UNICEF* | *40,755* | *37,583.48* | 14,852.99 | 14,852.99 | 0 | - | 36% |
|  | *UNESCO* | *5,034* | *3,736.10* | 2,040.92 | 2,040.92 | 0 | - | 40% |
|  | *UNFPA* | *9,158* | *9,152.96* | 5,704.97 | 5,704.97 | 0 | - | 62% |
|  | *FAO* | *11,774* | *11,364.05* | 5,773.53 | 5,773.53 | 0 | - | 49% |
|  | *GOVERNMENT OF BiH* | 3,337.41 | 3,337.41 | 3,337.41 | 0 | 0 | 3,337.41 | 100% |
|  | *UN COMMON COORDINATION[[3]](#footnote-3)* | *24,612* | *13,487.38* | 7,570.92 | 7,570.92 | 0 | - | 30% |
|  | *MPTF* | *24,000* | *24,000* | 6,031 | 6,031 | 0 | - | 25% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOTAL USD** | **4,321,948** | **3,899,020** | **1,563,131** | **845,996** | **601,342** | **119,129** |  **36%** |

**LESSONS LEARNT**

Below is a brief overview of main lessons that were learned in this reporting period:

* DRR approach focused on population vulnerabilities, informed by social and economic risk factors, need to be further promoted in public and within DRR practitioners’ community. While important achievements are made, there are still prevailing needs to formalize the role of social and child protection, education, and health in the integrated DRR models, e.g. within DRR Platforms and legislative frameworks. While the Programme facilitated these links at the local level, vertical scaling up at policy and system levels is needed to ensure country-wide replication and sustainability.
* DRR financing is a critical gap for ensuring full local sustainability of DRR interventions beyond programme support. More advocacy and tailored solutions are needed in the DRR financial planning across sectors to ensure long-term resources are available for regular implementation of DRR measures formulated across various sectoral plans, local development strategies, etc.
* Continuous advocacy that was done with relevant Ministries on system-level integration of DRR in legislation, policies, and Government-led programmes, such as the DRAS system or shock-responsive social protection, is of critical importance to ensure the long-term sustainability of interventions.
* MISP is a set of crucial, lifesaving activities and it will be necessary to continue working on the capacity building of healthcare and other professionals in order to improve the provision of the same and provide reliable SRHR related information for the population with a focus on women, girls, and youth. For this purpose, it is necessary to enable the use of new methods and advanced technologies.
* Experience from active engagement in conducting the first voluntary Sendai Midterm review process for BiH in 2022 displayed more engagement and involvement with different institutions (e.g. Agency for Statistics BiH, water agencies, hydrometeorological institutions, etc.) in the Programme, particularly in the second phase.
* Due to the various combined challenges in past years followed by the war in Ukraine, the supply chain noticeably differed from past experiences resulting in delays and higher prices, especially relevant for procurement in the Programme. However, it is expected that public expenditure will increase in the forthcoming period, due to the government’s response to rising inflation and the energy crisis which could affect or delay the prioritization of DRR actions and measures.
* Despite various positive factors in implementing the Programme, the key risk factors that need to be addressed in further work are the absence of legal recognition and limited human and institutional capacities of various sectors involved in DRR, with a moderate staff turnover rate.
* From the programmatic perspective and in line with cumulative utilized resources, budget reallocations are done together with a developed detailed spending plan/strategy for the remainder of the time.

**ANNEXES**

1. **DRR JP 2022 Media Report.**
2. **DRR JP 2022 Logical Framework.**
1. This includes funds provided through the Joint Programme Fund account as well as co-funding resources. Reporting on the amount transferred and expended through the Joint Programme Fund account will be shown in MPTF’s Consolidated Annual Financial Report and found on: <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/JBA10>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Information regarding SDC cumulative expenditure can be found in Consolidated Annual Financial Report of the Administrative Agent (Table 5.1. Net Funded Amount, Reported Expenditure, and Financial Delivery by Participating Organization, as of 31 December 2022) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Indirect costs for UN Common Coordination are calculated under all UNDP costs. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)