



# Biannual Bulletin

July - December 2023

**MINISTRY OF SECURITY OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
DEPARTMENT FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS**

## AWARENESS RAISING DIGITAL CAMPAIGN

Due to the worryingly low rate of identification of victims of in human beings in the Western Balkans region, especially in mixed migration flows, the International Organization for Migration in Bosnia and Herzegovina (IOM BiH) launched a digital campaign to raise awareness as part of the World and European Anti-Trafficking Day on 30 July and 18 October 2023. The campaign was carried out as a part of the of the project "Joint Actions Against Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Human Beings" (WBJAST) funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark. In co-operation with the Ministry of Security of BiH and the organizations Zemlja djece u BiH, Medica Zenica and Novi Početak, three short animated videos were recorded inspired by real cases of labour exploitation, forced begging and sexual exploitation among the migrant population for the purpose of informing the public about the harsh reality of this crime, which represents a serious violation of human rights.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=954742459091198>

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1477557756332064>

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=847601050165223>

## Prosjačenje i prisilni rad



Naracija:

Braća, sestre i ja nismo išli u školu kao druga djeca.



Naracija:

Svaki dan nas je otac tjerao na ulicu da prosimo od prolaznika. Često smo bili gladni, promrzli i bosi. Tata nas ujutro dovede tu kod robne kuće i naveče mu moramo predati sav novac. On kaže da moramo zaraditi barem 20 maraka. Od dobijenog novca nismo smjeli sebi kupiti ni kiflu.



Naracija:

Ako ne zaradimo dovoljno novca, onda nas naveče natjera da skupljamo staro željezo ili nas pretuče.



Naracija:

Prijetili su mi da će poslati taj video mojoj porodici i prijateljima u Afganistan ako ne nastavim da to radim za njih.

Prestravio sam se i osjećao poniženo.



Naracija:

Rekli su mi da tako mogu zaraditi pare za nastavak putovanja, ali više nisam mogao.



Naracija:

Nisam htio da živim.



Naracija:

Odlučio sam tražiti pomoć i prijaviti ih. Nije bilo lako.

## AD-HOC BILATERAL OPERATIVE MEETING BETWEEN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA AND SERBIA, 1 September 2023, Belgrade

Recognizing the importance of cross-border police co-operation, and with the aim of intensifying the exchange of operational data and information, IOM BiH supported the organization of an operational meeting of representatives of the Border Police of the Republic of Serbia and the Public Prosecutor's Office of Serbia with police officers of the Border Police BiH and a representative of the Prosecutor's Office BiH, as a part of the WBJAST project. At the meeting, the representatives of the investigative authorities finalized the relevant activities aimed at uncovering criminal offences related to the smuggling of migrants from the territory of the Republic of Serbia to the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina and further towards the EU countries. The co-operation was initiated at the annual meeting of the Western Balkans Strike Groups, organized by the IOM in Budva (February 2023), additionally planned during the trilateral simulation held in Jahorina (April 2023), and the final activities were agreed upon at the bilateral operational meeting held on 1 September 2023 in Belgrade, which resulted in the operation "Barbados" and the arrest of smugglers on 13 September 2023.



## REGIONAL ROUND TABLE: "STRENGTHENING JUDICIAL RESPONSE TO TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS AND MIGRANT SMUGGLING IN THE CONTEXT OF MIXED MIGRATION FLOWS"

From 16 to 17 November 2023, the IOM gathered representatives of the judiciary, law enforcement authorities, service providers and Ombudsman offices from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia at the *Strengthening the Judicial Response to Trafficking in Human Beings and Migrant Smuggling in the Context of Mixed Migration Flows* round table. The focus of the three panels was on identifying best practices and developing innovative approaches for sustainable remote interpreting, as well as the importance of applying a victim-centred approach throughout criminal proceedings, with a particular emphasis on migrant populations. Additional discussion provided insights on the critical role of digital evidence in investigations, the legal requirements and challenges, the authenticity of this type of evidence, and the role of technology in fighting these crimes.

## REGIONAL ROUND TABLE: “STRENGTHENING CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION BETWEEN PARTNERS PROVIDING PROTECTION AND SUPPORT SERVICES TO VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN THE WESTERN BALKANS”



The WBJAST project organized a round table in Tirana (Albania) entitled *Strengthening cross-border cooperation between partners providing protection and support services to victims of trafficking in Western Balkans* on 12 and 13 December 2023. The goal of the event was to exchange current best practices and systems, as well as opportunities for cross-border co-operation among key service providers within the national referral mechanisms of all six countries of the Western Balkans.

Strengthening protection and assistance mechanisms for victims of trafficking in human beings, especially during investigations, accompanied by personalized reintegration and rehabilitation programs, were vital to empowering survivors. Therefore, Panel I discussed the improvement of direct assistance systems, addressing challenges within national referral mechanisms, as well as promoting a victim-centred approach to investigations. Panel II emphasized

the importance of tailored reintegration and empowerment programs, showcasing initiatives such as the “Bagel Bejgl” project in Serbia and highlighted co-operation between government agencies, non-governmental organizations and local communities in order to comprehensively support survivors. Panel III focused on effective cross-border referral and regional co-operation to ensure ongoing support for victims, overcoming inadequate national resources.

## ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS “OTAHARIN” FROM BIJELJINA

In the period from November 2021 to October 2023, Otaharin implemented the project entitled “NO CHILD WITHOUT PROTECTION - improvement of mechanisms for the prevention of child trafficking and the protection of children of potential victims/victims of human trafficking” with the support of the USAID/INSPIRE Program. Many notable results were achieved through this project:

- **Three working groups for the protection of child safety were established in Brčko, Zvornik and Dobo.**
- **A working group was established for the preparation of the Report on the justification of establishing the Shelter for children at risk in the city of Bijeljina.**
- **The Program for strengthening the capacity of professionals for the prevention of trafficking in human beings was implemented and four modules of two-day educational and informative workshops were held for professionals in all four local communities. The topic of the module was trafficking, and the purpose of the activity is to strengthen the capacity of professionals so that they can react preventively in the best**

interest of the child. One module represented two days of training in each of the mentioned cities, therefore one module is eight working days divided into four two-day educational and informative workshops. The program was implemented through the following topics: Needs and problems in the protection of children's safety at the local level; The phenomenon of trafficking and child trafficking; Indicators and prevention for trafficking and child trafficking, and Social justice and protection of victims of child trafficking.

- As part of the Project, a **Survey on Opinions and Practices** was conducted in Bijeljina, Doboj, Zvornik and Brčko District BiH. In addition to the graphs showing the results of the survey, this research provided a general overview of the state of safety of children at risk in the mentioned areas and specific recommendations for improving the position of children. The research showed that citizens from the mentioned cities are not familiar with the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings, and in particular with its forms and methods of prevention.
- As a result of working with professionals, a **Manual on the prevention and fight against trafficking in human beings** was developed for professionals in the cities of Bijeljina, Zvornik, Doboj and Brčko District BiH;
- The **"NO CHILD WITHOUT PROTECTION"** campaign was implemented, within which four presentations/public forums were held in four local communities;
- **Two study visits/exchanges of experience and good practices** were held, where professionals from Doboj, Zvornik and Brčko District BiH had the opportunity to visit Bijeljina, as well as the Day Centre "Otaharin", the Social Enterprise AGRO Plan and the Day Centre for Children at Risk within the Centre for Social Welfare in Bijeljina.  
Otaharin singled out the establishment of the Shelter for the Children at Risk of the City of Bijeljina as one of the ways to prevent trafficking

in human beings. The initiative to establish the Otaharin Shelter was launched in 2019, and until now, many steps have been taken towards the establishment of this institution. The City of Bijeljina has started building the Shelter, while Otaharin is making every effort to start the service as soon as possible because research at the local level is not encouraging, the number of children on the street is increasing, and their basic needs are increasingly threatened.

## **CONTINUED SUPPORT TO THE WORKING GROUP OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA FOR DRAFTING THE DRAFT LAW ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FUND FOR COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS OF THE CRIMINAL OFFENCE OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS**



In accordance with GRETA's recommendation on the establishment of a state system of compensation available to all victims of trafficking in BiH, and the Action Plan of the institutions of BiH, the Project supported the work of the

Working Group of the Ministry of Justice of BiH for the drafting of a law on the establishment of a state system of compensation for victims of trafficking in the period from July to December 2023.

At the request of the Working Group, in order to facilitate an informed decision on the establishment of a victim compensation fund, the project also produced an Analysis of court decisions on compensation for damages in criminal proceedings (on the number of submitted and approved requests for compensation for damages, in general and in cases of trafficking from 2004 to 2023), with the support of the OSCE Mission to BiH.

Taking into account all the information and analysis, as well as the opinions of the institutions, the Working Group finished its work in December 2023 without reaching a consensus at all levels of government that would be covered by this law (BiH, Federation of BiH, Republika Srpska and Brčko District BiH).

The project will continue activities related to the establishment of a compensation system for victims of trafficking, in accordance with the new Strategy and Action Plan for its implementation.

## **TRAINING PROFESSIONALS FROM THE NGO SECTOR AND PROVIDERS OF FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND SIGNING THE MEMORANDUM OF CO-OPERATION**

In order to support the strengthening of the mechanism of providing free legal aid and representation of victims of trafficking, as well as strengthening their capacities, the Council of Europe Project held an initial meeting in Konjic on

20 and 21 July 2023. The meeting was marked by the opening of a platform for signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for co-operation between non-governmental and state providers of free legal aid. A network of institutes/centres for free legal aid and non-governmental organizations that provide legal aid and free legal aid to victims of trafficking has also been established and consists of 13 members (9 institutes/centres and 4 specialized non-governmental organizations).



By the end of 2023, the MoU was signed by six members. Subsequently, two more members joined the network (the Office for Providing Free Legal Aid at the Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Cantonal Institute for Free Legal Aid of Canton Ten). Fifteen providers of legal aid and free legal aid who participated in the introductory meeting also learned about the indicators of trafficking, the victim identification process and the referral mechanism for providing assistance to victims.

## PRESENTATION OF THE PROTOCOL ON CO-OPERATION BETWEEN POLICE AND LABOUR INSPECTION

The protocol on co-operation between the police and labour inspectorates in the detection and investigation of cases of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation and referral of victims was drawn up as part of the Council of Europe Project in July 2023. The goal is to strengthen the co-operation of the signatories of the protocol on improving the prevention, detection and suppression of trafficking within their jurisdiction in criminal and minor offence proceedings, as well as the timely protection of victims of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation.

The draft protocol was presented on 25 and 26 July 2023 at the *workshop on development of local protocols for the prevention, detection and investigation of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation*, held in Konjic for twenty-five practitioners, members of teams for combating trafficking in human beings from all administrative levels of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In accordance with the proposals and discussion from this workshop, the presented protocol was finalized and submitted to the competent institutions in the country (ministries of interior and inspectorates) for adoption, signing and implementation.



By the end of 2023, the majority of anti-trafficking teams confirmed the adoption of the document: Canton 10, West Herzegovina Canton, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, Zenica-Doboj Canton, Tuzla Canton, Bosnia-Podrinje Canton, Una-Sana Canton, Brčko District BiH. Also, the proposal for the Federation of BiH and Republika Srpska was accepted. In November 2023, a Protocol was signed between the Ministry of the Interior and the Inspectorate of Canton 10 (Livno). The process continues in 2024.

## SUPPORT TO THE REGIONAL CO-OPERATION OF PROFESSIONALS FROM BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA AND NORTH MACEDONIA THROUGH THE ORGANIZATION OF AN EXPERT MEETING ON THE TOPIC OF PROCESSING FORCED BEGGING



In order to exchange experiences on ways to solve the phenomenon of forced begging as the predominant form of child trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia, a professional

seminar of experts in this field was held in Sarajevo on 6 September 2023, organized by the Council of Europe project “Strengthening action against trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina” and the joint project of the European Union and the Council of Europe for combating trafficking in human beings in North Macedonia.

The State co-ordinator for the fight against trafficking in human beings welcomed the initiative of regional co-operation between colleagues from Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia, and gave an overview of the forced begging of children in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Among the 14 participants were prosecutors, police investigators, social workers, a judge, representatives of civil society organizations and mobile anti-trafficking teams from Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia.

Participants discussed special investigative procedures and techniques to obtain credible evidence and assist courts in adjudicating cases. Several successfully prosecuted cases in Bosnia and Herzegovina were presented. Those present pointed out that the effective fight against child trafficking for forced begging requires multi-institutional co-operation, even at the regional level. They also emphasized the importance of adequate and timely care and protection of children, victims of human trafficking and forced begging.

## XVI ANNUAL PROSECUTORIAL CONFERENCE IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

In 2023, the Council of Europe continued to support professionals from the judiciary, prosecution and law enforcement sectors.

As part of the XVI annual prosecutorial conference held from 17 to 19 October 2023, a training/panel was held on “Trafficking in human beings

as a form of gender-based violence”, which was jointly organized by the Office of the Council of Europe in Sarajevo, the OSCE Mission to BiH, the Atlantic Initiative of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the International Solidarity Forum-EMMAUS in co-operation with the Judicial and Prosecutorial Training Centres of FBiH and RS, and the Association of Prosecutors of FBiH.

The implementation of this event marked the European Day against Trafficking in human beings on 18 October 2023. Twenty-five legal experts from BiH and the region focused on important topics such as gender-sensitive approaches in the fight against trafficking and access to justice and legal remedies for women victims of violence and trafficking. The event provided the participants with an insight into the current situation in these areas and enabled the exchange of experiences. A moot court was held, and one of the sessions was dedicated to the discussion about the vulnerability of Roma to trafficking, for which the representative of the Roma non-governmental organization Kali Sara was engaged. The result, in addition to the conclusions reached for a more effective fight against trafficking in the future, is also connecting judicial experts from the region.



## SUPPORT FOR DRAFTING NEW STRATEGY FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

In order to support the process of drafting a new strategy for the fight against trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period 2024-2027, the Council of Europe Project organized two consultation meetings to discuss the role of the non-governmental sector and relevant public and private bodies in the fight against trafficking.

The meeting with non-governmental organizations was held on 23 November in Sarajevo. The meeting was attended by 16 participants, representatives of the following non-governmental organizations: Association "Novi početak" - Gradiška, Association of Roma Women "Bolja Budućnost" - Tuzla, Association "Zemlja djece u BiH" - Tuzla, MFS EMMAUS - Sarajevo, Association "Novi Put" - Mostar, Human Rights Centre- Mostar, Association for Training and Development "Dignitet" - Mostar, Association "Žene sa Une" - Bihać and Women's Rights Centre - Zenica. The participants discussed the role of the NGO sector and ways of further involvement in the activities of combating trafficking in human beings.

Consultations on the role of the business and financial sector in the prevention and detection of trafficking were held on 28 November in Sarajevo. Twelve experts, representatives of financial institutions, labour inspectorates, tax inspectorates, employers' associations, chambers of commerce and trade unions at state and entity levels discussed how companies and financial bodies can co-operate with public institutions and contribute to the fight against modern slavery.

The recommendations developed at the two meetings were presented to the Working Group of the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina to be taken into consideration during

the development of a new strategy to combat trafficking in human beings.



## DEVELOPMENT OF PROTOCOLS FOR PREVENTION, IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL PROCEDURE IN CASES OF TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN



Drafting the proposals for local protocols for prevention, proactive identification and referral in cases of child trafficking in five administrative units in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Republika Srpska, District Brčko BiH, and the municipalities of Olovo, Kiseljak and Velika Kladuša in the Federation

of Bosnia and Herzegovina) was completed in October 2023. The protocols were prepared following a comprehensive analysis of the existing instruments and consultation of the institutions in the mentioned administrative units. The international, legal and institutional obligations of Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding the fight against child trafficking were discussed.

Local communities were mapped based on the expressed interest of representatives of local government structures, i.e., the co-ordinators for the fight against trafficking in human beings in three cantons, the Central Bosnia, Zenica-Doboj and Una-Sana cantons, the co-ordinators for the fight against trafficking in human beings in Republika Srpska and Brčko District BiH, and on the current situation related to the exploitation of children.

In December 2023, the Council of Europe initiated the procedure for awarding grants to a non-governmental organization that works in the field of prevention and combating child trafficking, for the implementation of capacity-building activities for practitioners from the aforementioned communities for the application of the protocol, and strengthening the overall referral mechanism for combating trafficking in children.

## **PRESENTATION OF THE EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA 2020-2023**

In September 2023, a report was presented on the effects of the implementation of the Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2020 - 2023. With the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the Support Program for the Protection of Human Rights (USAID/INSPIRE), the evaluation and the report were made by the consulting company CEDES from Sarajevo.

The findings and the recommendations derived from the evaluation and the report helped the Working Group appointed by the Minister of Security in the development of the new Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2024-2027.



## OSCE MISSION TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

### ANALYSIS OF LEGAL, INSTITUTIONAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA ON COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND LABOR EXPLOITATION IN SUPPLY CHAINS



In September, the OSCE Mission to BiH and the [Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings](#) presented a study analysis that provided details on the legal, institutional and policy framework in regards to trafficking in human beings (THB) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), with a focus on human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, including relevant international standards in the prevention of labour exploitation within supply chains.

The analysis identified the key stakeholders responsible for implementing the relevant standards and addressing the risks of THB and labour exploitation in supply chains. It discussed

the legal, policy and institutional frameworks in BiH relevant to this issue. The analysis also identified several concerns regarding BiH's duty to address THB for the purpose of labour exploitation in supply chains.

For example, only one national strategic measure refers to this issue. As a result, there has been a failure to elaborate on this measure through specific activities contained in the relevant action plans at the State, entity, canton, and district levels. Further, the relevant public procurement legislation did not contain specific provisions on the prevention of THB or on due diligence in this area in terms of managing the risks of human trafficking in supply chains. In addition, there were no due diligence regulations in BiH that require businesses to undertake efforts to identify exploitation in their supply chains and address it in an effective way. It concluded with a set of recommendations for future action in BiH in order to tackle THB and labour exploitation in supply chains effectively.

### FINANCIAL INVESTIGATIONS IN TRAFFICKING CASES, ROLE OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND PRIVATE SECTOR

On 7 and 8 September 2023, the [Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings](#) and the [Council of Europe's Anti-Trafficking Division](#) organized a joint roundtable in Sarajevo, which focused on strengthening the role of the private sector, particularly financial institutions, in preventing and combating human trafficking.

The event brought together some 50 representatives of financial intelligence units, law enforcement agencies, prosecutor's officers, anti-trafficking co-ordination bodies, financial and other private sector institutions, financial regulators,

trade unions, and academia from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia.



During the roundtable, promising practices were presented by speakers from Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Latvia, the Netherlands, Europol, Western Union, Bank Santander, ICAEW, and Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking (FAST). A film produced by ICAEW was screened during the event which had an excellent impact on raising awareness of participants on red-flag indicators and risks that accountancy services can detect and report. The OSCE study [«Following the Money: Compendium of Resources and Step-by-step Guide to Financial Investigations into Trafficking in Human Beings»](#) was also presented as a valuable resource.

## JOINT TRAINING WORKSHOPS FOR LOCAL POLICE ON MIGRATION-RELATED ISSUES

In September, the UN agencies (UNHCR, IOM, UNDSS, and UNICEF) and the OSCE Mission to BiH collaborated with the Ministry of Security BiH's Service for Foreigners and delivered presentations on the mandates of the respective agencies in the field of protection and support to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers (MRA) in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The OSCE Mission to BiH presented its work in the field of prevention and combatting of THB in mixed migration flows as well as the key findings based on the Mission's monitoring of such cases before national judicial institutions. Participants learned about gender perspectives and victim-centred approach in the first contact and early identification of potential victims of trafficking. The presentation included a practical checklist of indicators, which differentiate trafficking in human beings from smuggling in persons.

## MARKING EUROPEAN ANTI-TRAFFICKING DAY

To mark the European Anti-Trafficking Day the OSCE Mission to BiH organized, from 16 to 19 October, a social media campaign to raise awareness about the trafficking issues including the effective prosecution and the importance of victim-centred and gender-sensitive approaches in combating THB. Additionally, the Mission participated in conferences organized by national and international partners on the occasion of the European Anti-Trafficking, **18 October**.

The Mission contributed to a panel discussion in Bihac concerning risk assessment and prevention

of THB, emphasizing the crucial need to address labor exploitation within supply chains. In Sarajevo, the Mission offered insights during a conference focused on combating THB within mixed migration flows.

## ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN PREVENTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AMID REFUGEE FLOWS



On 6 and 7 December, the OSCE Mission to BiH participated in the conference Preventing trafficking in human beings and increasing identification of and assistance to victims amid refugee flows from Ukraine: the role of civil society and anti-trafficking hotlines. The Conference, organized by the Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for combating Trafficking in Human Beings was held in Vienna. It gathered some 50 representatives from the OSCE region, including two civil society organizations from Bosnia and Herzegovina, namely “Vaša prava” and “Novi Put”. While the conference focused on prevention of trafficking and assistance to victims amid refugee flows from Ukraine, it offered a number of observations relevant for the critical role of civil society in preventing human trafficking in the context of forced migrations. Civil society organizations are well-placed to detect early signs of trafficking amid refugee flows and provide trauma-informed, gender-sensitive and age-appropriate support to the victims.

## ASSISTING THE COUNTRY TO IMPROVE ITS RESPONSE TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

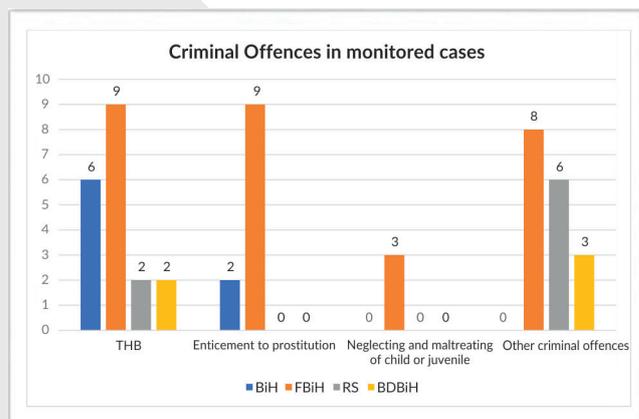
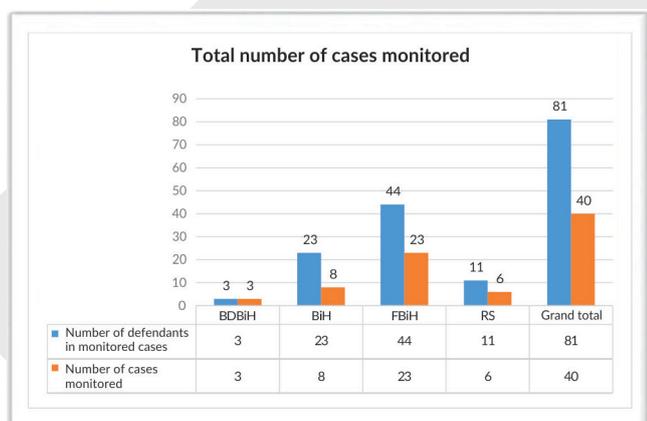
In December 2023, the OSCE Mission to BiH conducted a number of activities to increase the country’s abilities to combat trafficking in human beings. On 4 December 2023, the Mission organized a workshop on dealing with child victims of THB in Sarajevo Canton. The workshop brought together representatives of the cantonal government, judicial institutions, police, and social welfare centers. Participants exchanged good practices and defined the challenges in the prosecution of criminal offenses committed against minors. They also discussed the advanced models of providing support to minor victims during and after the judicial proceeding and increased their skills in forensic interviewing of the child.

On 5 December, the OSCE Mission to BiH traditionally marked the International Human Rights Day by organizing a Workshop on combating THB for students of the Law Faculty in Banja Luka. The workshop focused on the importance of a victim-centred and trauma informed approaches to human trafficking. On 12 December the Mission participated in the workshop on discussing guidelines for multisectoral approach in crisis situations in educational institutions in Canton Sarajevo and presented the best practices on dealing with child victims and witnesses of the crime including through the “Barnahus” model.

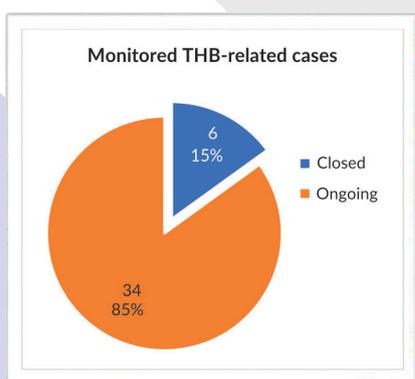
## MONITORING FINDINGS

The OSCE Mission to BiH monitors THB and trafficking-related cases in order to identify the best practices and shortcomings in prosecutorial and judicial responses to human trafficking. Between 1 January and 31 December 2023, the Mission monitored 40 cases that have been either legally qualified as criminal offences of trafficking in human beings as stipulated in the applicable criminal legislation in BiH, or, regardless of their legal qualification, the cases where the salient facts indicated the existence of the required elements of the criminal offences of THB

The monitored cases included 81 defendants (68 men and 13 women). As shown in the chart below the monitored cases refer to the criminal offence of THB under Article 186 of the BiH Criminal Code (CC BiH) in six cases; the criminal offence of THB under Article 198a of the CC RS and Article 145 of the 2017 CC RS in zero cases; Article 146 of the 2017 CC RS in two cases; the criminal offence of trafficking in minors under Article 198b CC RS and Article 145 of the 2017 CC RS in zero cases; the criminal offence of THB under Article 210a CC FBiH in six cases and three cases under Article 210b CC FBiH; and the criminal offence of THB under Article 207a CC BDBiH in two cases.



Monitored cases included 34 ongoing and six cases that were finalized in the period from 1 January to 31 December 2023.



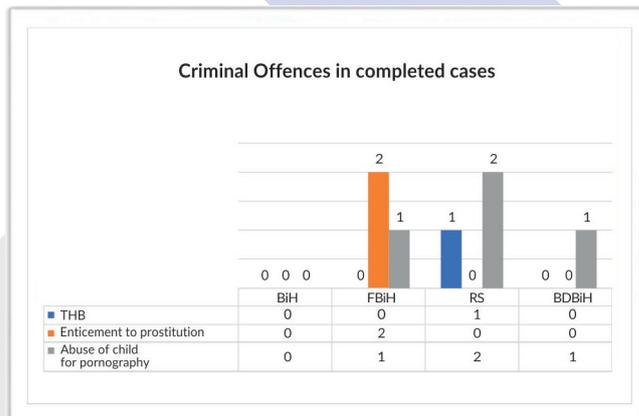
In two monitored cases court decisions refer to the criminal offence of international enticement to prostitution prescribed under Article 187 CC BiH; in nine cases court decisions refer to the criminal offence of enticement to prostitution under Article 210 CC FBiH.

In three cases charges refer to the criminal offence of neglecting and maltreating of a child or juvenile (CC FBiH, Art. 219).

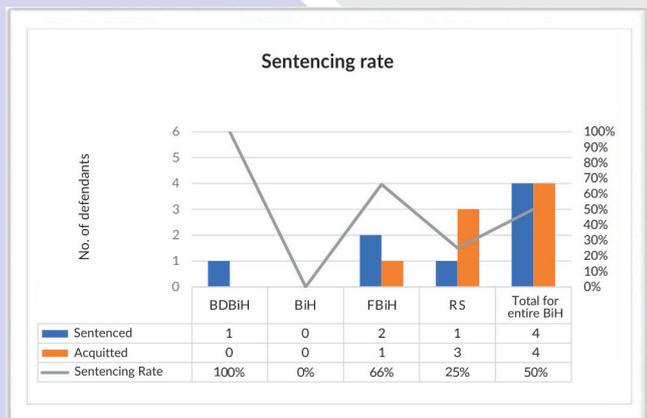
Other charges in the monitored cases included criminal offences such as the Abuse of Child for Pornography (RS CC [New] Art. 175 – three cases, FBiH CC Art. 211 - three cases and BDBiH CC Art. 208 – one case), Domestic Violence (BDBiH CC Art. 218 – two cases); Abduction of a Child or Juvenile (FBiH CC Art. 217 – two cases); Extramarital union with a child or juvenile (RS CC [New] Art. 184 – two cases); Sexual Intercourse with a Child (FBiH CC

Art. 207 – one case and RS CC [New] Art. 172 – on case); Unlawful Deprivation of Freedom (FBiH CC Art. 179 – one case), and Satisfying Lust in Front of a Child or Juvenile (FBiH CC Art. 209 – one case).

In the completed cases in the period between January 2023 – December 2023 the court decisions referred to the following criminal offencesu:



January 2023 - December 2023), the courts found four defendants guilty and acquitted four defendants. Two defendants were given suspended sentences and two defendants were sentenced to imprisonment; the lowest sentence imposed was 3 months in prison suspended, while the harshest pronounced sentence was 1 year and 9 months in prison.





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