

The background features a large, light grey triangle pointing downwards, centered on the page. This triangle is surrounded by several dark blue triangles of various sizes, some pointing upwards and others downwards, creating a dynamic, geometric pattern. The overall design is clean and modern, using a limited color palette of blue and grey.

Biannual Bulletin

January - June 2024

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

THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

On 24 June, the U.S. Department of State published the 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report, placing countries in four groups (group 1, group 2, group “watch list” and group 3), depending on their progress in combating trafficking in human beings.

The Report indicates that BiH authorities do not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking in human beings but that they are however making significant efforts to do so. Compared to the previous reporting period, the BiH authorities have generally increased their efforts, keeping Bosnia and Herzegovina at Tier 2. These efforts include a higher number of convicted traffickers in the Federation of BiH (FBiH) and consistent convictions with appropriate prison sentences in state, FBiH and Brčko District of BiH courts. Authorities have adopted guidelines and minimum standards for services to victims, particularly children, and established a commission to inspect shelters run by non-governmental organizations to ensure these standards are met before disbursing funds.

In addition, the authorities issued guidelines for determining compensation for victims of human trafficking. The Prosecutor’s Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina provided binding instructions for prosecutors on filing compensation claims in human trafficking cases. The authorities also engaged a consulting firm to independently evaluate the implementation of the national strategy for 2020-2023. However, the authorities failed to meet minimum standards in several key areas, as Republika Srpska did not convict a single human trafficker in 2022 and 2023.

Law enforcement agencies still lack the capacity to conduct effective investigations, and authorities have not proactively identified victims. This failure has sometimes led to victims being punished for illegal acts committed as a direct result of their trafficking. In January 2024, the largest shelter,

funded by the institutional budget and managed by a non-governmental organization, was closed partly due to insufficient funds. Consequently, the government’s ability to accommodate and assist victims has decreased by over 50 per cent.

While officials who first come into contact with potential victims have increasingly identified victims from the Roma community, some authorities have failed to investigate cases of potential forced begging and forced labour involving Roma children. Instead, they justified these situations as traditional cultural practices and customs, returning the children to their families even when the parents were involved in the exploitation. Additionally, some cantonal governments did not allocate funds in their budgets to compensate members of regional monitoring teams (RMT), hindering their participation and co-ordination.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE CENTER OF WOMEN’S RIGHTS

From January to June 2024, the Center of Women’s Rights continued with providing support to victims of trafficking in human beings. The victims were informed of their basic rights during trials and educated on the concept of criminal proceedings as well as basic concepts such as court, detention, investigation, prosecutor, questioning during investigation, talking to expert witnesses, the obligation to tell the truth, and on the concept of compensation claim (i.e., on the rights they have as injured parties in the course of criminal proceedings). To protect and uphold the basic rights of victims, the Center of Women’s Rights maintained regular contact with relevant prosecutor’s offices, social welfare centres, courts, and the safe houses where the victims were housed.

In the same period, the Center of Women’s Rights held a seminar and a training for the employees of the social welfare centres in the Doboј region, West Herzegovina Canton, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, and Canton 10.

The trainings and seminars are a step towards strengthening and improving the co-operation with institutional actors. They help create a more favorable environment and system of support that enhances the situation of victims, ensures more effective advocacy for their rights and interests, and strengthens the protection of human trafficking victims.



The Center of Women's Rights focused on developing videos within the public advocacy campaign "The voice of the victims of trafficking in human beings" and their promotion. The process was demanding and ambitious but driven by the

desire that the public watching the videos "feels" the burden that trafficking victims carry, and to be made aware of the consequences. A total of nine videos were made.

As a part of the public advocacy campaign, "The voice of the victims of trafficking in human beings", three short documentaries were made based on real experiences of victims of trafficking.

The documentaries can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vVwvq7pWcm4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hEEW4fuj7E>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsjJupZweVI&t=38s>

All activities are implemented under the auspices of the USAID/INSPIRE Support Program for the Protection of Human Rights and in line with the Strategic Plan of the Center for Women's Rights.

IMPROVING CROSS-SECTIONAL APPROACH TO TACKLING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS



The Roma women Association "Bolja budućnost" Tuzla, in co-operation with the Association "Zemlja djece u BiH", and with the support of the USAID/INSPIRE Support Program for the Protection of Human Rights is implementing the Project "Strengthening Roma non-governmental organizations in preventing and fighting trafficking in human beings".

The Project will be implemented from April 2024 to May 2025 in Kakanj, Travnik, Sanski Most and Donji Vakuf. The Project improves the cross-sectional approach to tackling trafficking in human beings, with a particular focus on the inclusion of the Roma representatives in referral mechanism processes. In the first quarter of the Project implementation, a survey was initiated to identify specific forms of human trafficking in Roma communities at project locations. The survey involves direct communication through interviews and anonymous questionnaires conducted by trained mediators who adhere to ethical principles and methodological guidelines, ensuring respondent confidentiality and safety. This phase is crucial for understanding the challenges faced by the Roma population. It is anticipated that the survey results will offer concrete insights into various forms of human trafficking, thereby enhancing efforts to combat trafficking and providing better protection and support for the most vulnerable members of the Roma community.

STRENGTHENING PROACTIVE IDENTIFICATION, MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT FOR PREVENTING AND FIGHTING SMUGGLING AND TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS IN BiH (AND THE REGION)

The Project “Strengthening proactive identification, mental health and psycho-social support for preventing and combating smuggling and trafficking in human beings in BiH (and the region)” is financed by the GIZ regional project EU4FAST and strengthens the role and efficiency of proactive measures to identify and adequately react by providing protection and safety to

potential victims of trafficking in human beings. World Vision BiH, in co-ordination and with active participation of key actors for children protection, actively worked on strengthening and establishing Mobile identification teams (MIT) at three new border locations. In the first half of 2024, the City of Bosanska Krupa officially formalized the status and activities of the MIT. The city of Zvornik is another location in which the Project will focus on strengthening the local referral mechanism for early identification of potential cases of trafficking in human beings and illegal migration.

In order to improve the capacities and ensure the necessary support to the mobile identification teams, a two-day training was carried out for the members of multi-sectoral MITs, the police and social welfare centres from 11 cities (Sarajevo, Mostar, Tuzla, Banja Luka, Bijeljina, Bihać, Visoko, Živinice, Bosanska Krupa, Cazin and Zvornik) with the aim of improving skills and knowledge of participants in the area of proactive identification.



BRČKO DISTRICT OF BiH POLICE ACTIVITIES

On 13 June 2024, the Police of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in co-operation with the OSCE Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, held a workshop titled “Prosecution of trafficking in human beings”. A total of 28 police officers, members of the Brčko District Police, participated in the workshop.

ROUNDTABLE ON TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS FOR THE PURPOSE OF LABOUR EXPLOATATION



The Council of Europe organized, on 28 February 2024, a roundtable focusing on Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress in preventing and combating human trafficking for labour exploitation.

Over 45 participants, including representatives from public institutions, civil society organizations, and domestic and international experts, discussed measures to address vulnerabilities, conduct investigations, and mitigate the consequences of human trafficking for labour exploitation. The discussions emphasized the critical role of labour inspectors, police officers, companies, civil society organizations, and former victims in combating human trafficking. The effectiveness of these efforts hinges on reducing the demand for cheap labour, monitoring high-risk sectors, and ensuring that victims are recognized and receive proper support.

The participants also discussed the SerbAz case from 2010 and in addition the Court of BiH's and the European Court for Human Rights practice regarding trafficking and forced labour cases was presented.

The President of the Association "Novi početak", a trafficking survivor and the Head of the Office for combating trafficking in human beings from the Ministry of Security BiH, addressed the participants. The Ambassador of Norway in

BiH, the representative of the Secretariat of the Convention of the Council of Europe on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, and the representatives of non-governmental organizations DIGNITA (Bulgaria), Astra (Serbia), Foundation Lara (BiH), the Court and Prosecutor's Office BiH, labour inspectors, a journalist and a university professor also addressed the participants.

FEDERAL POLICE ADMINISTRATION AND FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION FOR INSPECTION AFFAIRS SIGNED A PROTOCOL ON CO-OPERATION TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING



On 22 March 2024, the Federal Police Administration and the Federal Administration for Inspection Affairs signed a Protocol on identification of victims and the investigation of instances of human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation. The protocol, developed with the support of the Council of Europe Project [„Strengthening anti-trafficking action in Bosnia and Herzegovina”](#) provides a framework for co-operation and is intended to stimulate the practice of joint inspections at workplace level by labour inspectors and law enforcement officers to effectively supervise compliance with labour law.

The Canton 10 Ministry of Interior and Labour Inspectorate (Livno) and West Herzegovina Canton have already signed the Protocol. Brčko District BiH, along with Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, Zenica-Doboj Canton, Tuzla Canton, Bosnia-Podrinje Canton Goražde, and Una-Sana Canton, have expressed their intention to sign the Protocol by the end of 2024. In Republika Srpska, the provisions of the Protocol will be included in the operational documents for the fight against human trafficking. The signing and implementation of the Protocol will contribute to the domestic response to one of the key recommendations in the [third GRETA's evaluation report](#).

TRAINING ON ONLINE AND TECHNOLOGY-FACILITATED TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS



On 25 March, in Sarajevo, the Council of Europe anti-trafficking project organized the seminar “Online and technology-facilitated trafficking in human beings” to support institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina to address the impact of technology on human trafficking.

At the seminar, the GRETA (Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings) Report “Online and technology-facilitated trafficking in human beings” by Professor Paolo Campana from the University of Cambridge was presented to 40 professionals, representatives from the ministries of interior, police agencies, prosecutor's offices, lawyers, labour inspectorates, as well as

international organizations and non-governmental organizations. The Report provides analysis and guidance on how to enhance the criminal justice response by improving the detection, investigation and prosecution of ICT-facilitated trafficking in human beings. Professor Campana presented the conclusions and recommendations of the report in a BiH context.

Law enforcement representatives presented real-life cases in Bosnia and Herzegovina and discussed challenges in the identification and investigation of online trafficking in human beings. The participants emphasized the importance of multi-sectoral co-operation and capacity-building of all relevant actors (police officers, prosecutors and judges). Enhanced co-operation with private companies and the non-governmental sector was considered as essential.

FIFTH ONLINE TRAINING ON TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS FOR THE PURPOSE OF LABOUR EXPLOITATION COMPLETED



On 15 March 2024, the Council of Europe anti-trafficking project in Bosnia and Herzegovina launched its second online training module on human trafficking for labour exploitation, developed by the Council of Europe's HELP (Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals) Programme.

Thirty-five professionals, including judges, prosecutors, legal aid providers, social workers, labour inspectors, law enforcement officers, and NGO representatives, participated in a training led by Cantonal Court Sarajevo judge Adisa Zahiragić and University of 'Džemal Bijedić' in Mostar Law Faculty Professor Rebeka Kotlo. The training covered seven modules, along with introductory and final sessions, and included weekly consultations. Participants had access to over 55 documents, publications, guidelines, textbooks, analyses, strategies, leaflets, news articles, and relevant legislation and jurisprudence on European and international standards, which will remain accessible after the course.

Out of 35 enrolled professionals, 22 successfully completed all modules and received certificates.

The Council of Europe anti-trafficking project in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the last five years, has supported the implementation of three general HELP (Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals) courses on trafficking in human beings (53 certified professionals and one HELP course on trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation (11 certified professionals).

FOURTEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF POLICE AGENCIES AND INSPECTORATES CERTIFIED TO CONDUCT TRAINING ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF LABOUR EXPLOITATION

In order to continue strengthening the capacities of professionals through trainings organized by institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as to improve work on the identification of victims of human trafficking for the purpose of labour

exploitation in line with GRETA recommendations, the Council of Europe Project "Strengthening anti-trafficking action in Bosnia and Herzegovina" organized a training of trainers (ToT) for representatives of police agencies and labour inspectorates.

During April and May 2024, professionals participated in educational sessions focused on developing the skills needed to deliver effective, structured, and engaging presentations on anti-trafficking topics. The training covered methodologies for designing and conducting sessions, and included practical exercises that allowed participants to test and refine their ability to transfer knowledge to colleagues future trainees. Future trainers were also familiarized with training materials and resources developed by the Project.

All participants successfully completed the training and are included in a list of project-certified trainers. During the fall of 2024, they will conduct-lead a cascade training for labour inspectors and law enforcement officials on labour trafficking and protocols for co-operation and prevention, detection, and investigation of cases of labour trafficking, which will also be organized by the Project.



COMPLETION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT “ENHANCING THE PARTICIPATION OF VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN ANTI-TRAFFICKING ACTION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA”

In 2023 and 2024, the Council of Europe Project “Strengthening anti-trafficking action in Bosnia and Herzegovina” awarded small grants to three non-governmental organizations: „Novi početak” - Gradiška, „Zemlja djece u BiH” - Tuzla and „Centar za ljudska prava” - Mostar.

The Association „Novi početak”, the only non-governmental organization established by survivors of trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina, completed the implementation of the Project “Enhancing the participation of victims and survivors of human trafficking in anti-trafficking action in Bosnia and Herzegovina” on 30 April 2024.



Some of the results achieved included the re-activation of the non-governmental organization by establishing an office, gathering a project team, drafting the strategic development plan and promotion material, and establishing contact with partners.

Between 1 July 2023 and 30 April 2024, “Novi početak” organized five public forums and five workshops with former victims of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation with 150 participants who were invited to join the activities of “Novi početak” and continue actively combating trafficking in human beings. A database of victims of trafficking in human beings was created. Further, a leaflet and a brochure with information on the SerbAz case, the activities of “Novi početak” and information on trafficking in human beings and the contact information for those looking for jobs abroad were produced and distributed.

TRAINING ON VICTIM-CENTRED INTERVIEWING TECHNIQUES



As a part of the regional training of trainers on digital investigations and victim-centred interviewing techniques, organized by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) from 13 May to 17 May 2024 in Budva, the Council of Europe led a session on victim-centred interviews which comprised presentations and simulation exercises replicating real cases. The goal of the session was to provide the participants with ways and means of communicating and creating a safe and supportive environment for victims of profit-seeking traffickers or smugglers of migrants. The contribution of two labour trafficking survivors to the event was particularly important and valued. They stressed the importance of communicating adequately with vulnerable persons.

The training was attended by 36 participants, including key anti-trafficking actors, such as police officers and cybercrime investigators, prosecutors, and assistance services providers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia.

On 17 May, the Council of Europe presented new trends in trafficking and outlined ongoing efforts to prevent and combat trafficking at the Annual Regional Meeting of the Task Forces for Countering Trafficking in Human Beings and Smuggling of Migrants, as well as the Anti-Trafficking Coordinators from Western Balkans countries.

The events concluded that it was crucial to continue to share expertise and implement coordinated strategies to combat human trafficking, particularly in the digital era, where new challenges for the respect for human rights of vulnerable groups arise.

BILATERAL VISIT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MINISTRY OF SECURITY OF BiH TO THE CENTRE FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS' PROTECTION IN SERBIA (finalization of the digital tool in Serbia based on the model from Bosnia and Herzegovina)

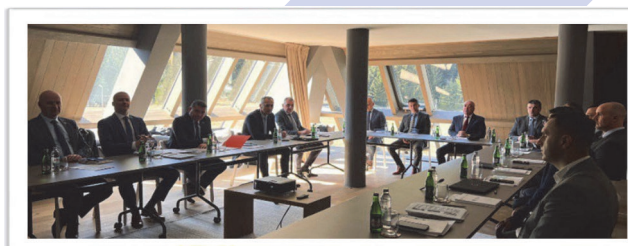
Bilateral visit of the representatives of the BiH Ministry of Security to the Centre for Human Trafficking Victims' Protection in Serbia included the review of current situation in the area of trafficking in human beings in both countries, including the existing challenges and trends and ways of improving anti-trafficking co-operation (prevention, identification, protection).

As an example of good interstate co-operation in the exchange of best practices, an innovative solution was presented - an application for the proactive identification of victims of trafficking, initially developed in BiH and adapted for the needs of the Centre for Human Trafficking Victims' Protection in Serbia. During the visit, the participants had the opportunity to practically test the developed tool and its use within the referral system.



OPERATIONS MEETING BETWEEN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, SERBIA AND CROATIA

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) supported an operations meeting between representatives of the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA), police officers of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia and National Police Office for Suppression of Corruption and Organized Crime (PNUSKOK) of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Croatia. The participants discussed organized criminal groups composed of members from the migrant population involved in human smuggling and other serious crimes. They also addressed the current state of irregular migration in the region. Beyond exchanging operational knowledge, the meeting focused on making strategic decisions regarding international co-operation.



OPERATIONS MEETING BETWEEN BIH AND SERBIA

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) supported the organization of an operations meeting between the representatives of BiH State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA) and Service for combating organized crime in Serbia that was held on 9 May 2024 in Istočno Sarajevo to discuss active case conducted by the two agencies.

representatives of the sector for high-tech crime from both ministries of interior at the entity levels.

The training consisted of two components:

- 1) Digital investigation and crypto tracing due to increasing concerns in the past several years regarding growing vulnerability to exploitation within digital context;
- 2) Victim-centred, trauma-informed and children-sensitive interviewing techniques.

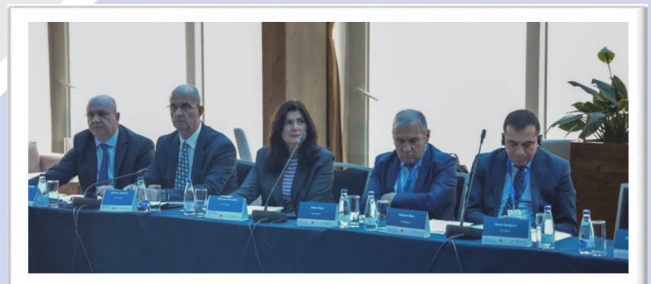
The training was carried out in the partnership with the Council of Europe and the EU4FAST Project.

REGIONAL TRAINING OF TRAINIERS: DIGITAL INVESTIGATIONS AND VICTIM-CENTRED INTERVIEWING TECHNIQUES



The International Organization for Migration (IOM) organized a comprehensive regional training of trainers with the focus on digital investigations and victim-centred interviewing techniques in cases of trafficking in human being and smuggling migrants. The training gathered key operative actors from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. Prosecutors, criminal investigators from the Office for Foreigners' Affairs, the Border Police BiH, State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA), as well as

THE ANNUAL REGIONAL MEETING OF THE TASK FORCES FOR COUNTERING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS AND SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS AND THE ANTI-TRAFFICKING COORDINATORS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS COUNTRIES



The Annual Regional Meeting of the Task Forces for Countering Trafficking in Human Beings and Smuggling of Migrants and the Anti-Trafficking Coordinators in the Western Balkans countries is a regular activity within the WBJAST (Joint Actions Against Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in

Human Beings) Project. The meeting gathered key actors, representatives of strike forces as well as national coordinators for combating trafficking and smuggling. It served as a platform for addressing current challenges, exchange of best practices and finding common solutions.

The meeting focused on new trends in the context of trafficking in human beings in a digital environment as well as the exploitation of labour migrants. The regional workforce shortage has increased the demand for migrant labour, which is vulnerable to exploitation without robust due diligence and access to information throughout the employment process. This situation is compounded by the ongoing emigration of workers from the Western Balkans. Additionally, the rapid advancement of digital technology has enabled organized criminal groups to expand their operations into human trafficking and migrant smuggling in recent years.

ADDRESSING SECONDARY TRAUMA AND PROFESSIONAL BURNOUT FOR PRACTITIONERS IN THE AREA OF COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS AND WORKING WITH VULNERABLE MIGRANT CATEGORIES IN BiH



The International Organization for Migration (IOM) organized a workshop for practitioners in the field of combating human trafficking. The workshop was held on March 26th and 27th on Mount Igman. The focus of the workshop was to empower practitioners who are the first contact with victims of trafficking in human beings and vulnerable migrant groups in BiH through sharing tools and techniques for alleviating secondary trauma and preventing burnout. The goal of the workshop was to empower the practitioners by teaching them stress-management techniques and emphasizing the importance of protecting their mental health while providing assistance services to vulnerable people. The conclusions and recommendations from the workshop provided practitioners with useful guidelines for protecting their mental health while executing their important work in this challenging field.

ENHANCING LEGAL REPRESENTATION AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN TRAFFICKING CASES



With the aim of enhancing legal representation and access to justice in human trafficking cases in BiH, IOM BiH, in co-operation with the BiH Ministry of Justice, organized a training for lawyers, representatives of cantonal institutes for providing free legal aid and witness support departments at the Court of BiH and BiH Prosecutors' office. The focus was on the comprehensive understanding of

the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings in BiH, including legal framework, procedures, and to provide free legal aid to victims. The discussions were complemented by role-play, in particular in the context of victim-centred and trauma-informed interviewing in order to ensure that the participants gain both the theoretical knowledge and practical skills for fighting trafficking in human beings.

OSCE MISSION TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

VISIT OF THE OSCE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND CO-ORDINATOR FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS



From 14 to 16 February, the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina facilitated the visit of Dr. Kari Johnstone, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (SR/CTHB) to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The visit aimed to assess the migrant situation in the country and discuss strategies for enhancing the identification and support of trafficking victims among migrants and asylum seekers. SR/CTHB visited temporary migrant reception centres and engaged with the national anti-trafficking co-ordinator, officials from Una-Sana Canton, and representatives from international and civil society organizations.

ANTI-TRAFFICKING TRAINING FOR LABOUR INSPECTORS



On 15 February, the Mission and SR/CTHB's Office conducted a training titled "Labour Trafficking in Supply Chains: Training for Labour Inspectors". The training, designed for labour inspectors across all jurisdictional levels in Bosnia and Herzegovina, aimed to enhance their ability to combat human trafficking and labour exploitation in supply chains. It focused on improving case identification and strengthening collaboration with law enforcement and prosecution authorities.

INTERAGENCY POLICE WORKSHOPS ON MIXED MIGRATION FLOWS

In May, the Mission joined forces with UN agencies (UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, UNDSS, and IOM), as well as the Service for Foreigners' Affairs within the BiH Ministry of Security to organize in Foča, Goražde, Trebinje, Sarajevo, and Prijedor workshops on migrant, refugee, and asylum seeker (MRA) issues for local police. The objective of the workshop was to present to police officers the international and national legal and human rights standards related to treatment of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and the current situation when it comes to mixed migrations flows in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

CONFERENCE OF THE ALLIANCE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS



On 15 and 16 April, the Mission facilitated the participation of Samir Rizvo, the State Co-ordinator for Combating THB at the 24th Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons, held in Vienna, where he presented challenges in addressing human trafficking for forced begging. This year Alliance Conference offered analysis of current prevention efforts and a vision to reshape approaches to prevention, by assessing various vulnerabilities, challenges of emerging and new forms of trafficking, identifying gaps in prevention measures, and showcasing promising tools and practices developed across the OSCE region for more effective prevention of THB.

TRAINING ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING FOR THE BRČKO DISTRICT POLICE

On 13 June in Brčko District BiH, the Mission facilitated training for police officers in the Brčko District Police on trafficking in human beings, which was attended by 28 police officers (all men) from the general and uniformed police. The training topic was selected in consultations with the Director of the Brčko District Police and its senior management, who identified concerning practices in the handling of the cases of child

begging. In fact, the growing trend of child begging has not been adequately addressed as trafficking in human beings (THB) but instead through lesser qualifications, including minor offences against public peace and order. Participants discussed topics such as identification, referral, legal qualification, and institutional collaboration in processing child begging as trafficking.

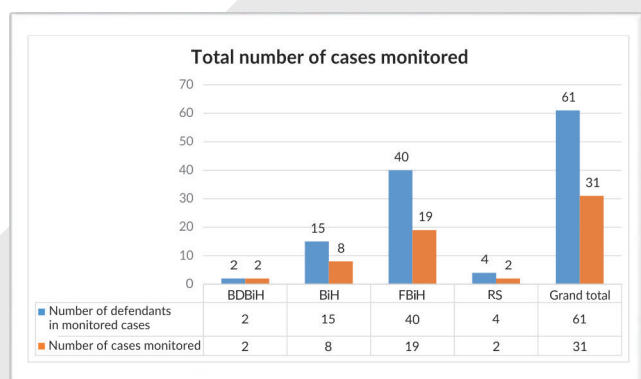


TRAINING OF TRAINERS AND CO-ORDINATION MEETING OF NATIONAL EXPERTS FOR ANTI-TRAFFICKING SIMULATION-BASED EXERCISE

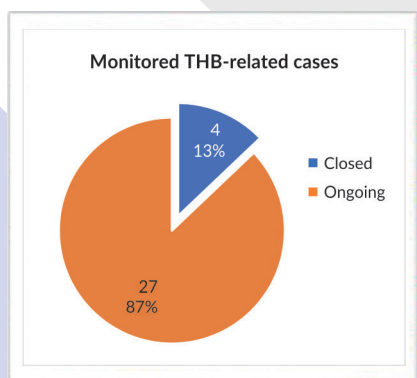
On 19 June in Teslić, a training of trainers as well as a co-ordination meeting of national experts was held to develop BiH's first ever anti-trafficking simulation-based training to enhance the institutional response to THB. The training included around 20 participants (12 women / 8 men) from law enforcement, judiciary and civil society. The purpose of the training was to meet and discuss the scenario for the simulation-based training for anti-trafficking stakeholders. The meeting resulted in the successful development of an agreement on a comprehensive draft scenario for the upcoming simulation-based training.

MONITORING FINDINGS

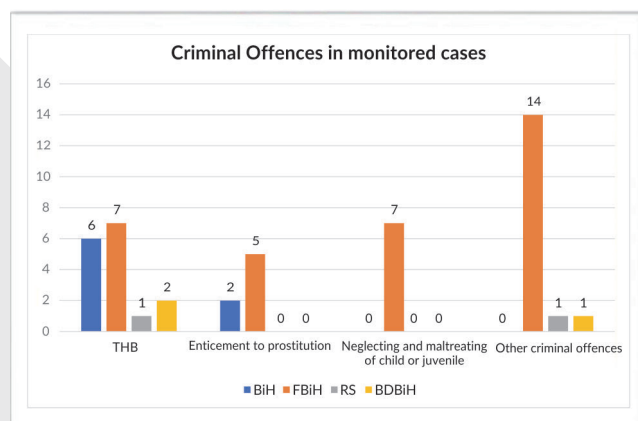
The Mission monitors THB and trafficking-related cases in order to identify the best practices and shortcomings in prosecutorial and judicial responses to human trafficking. Between 1 January 2024 – 30 June 2024, the Mission monitored 31 cases that have been either legally qualified as criminal offences of trafficking in human beings (THB) 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.



Monitored cases included 27 ongoing and 4 cases that were finalized in the period 1 January 2024 – 30 June 2024.



The monitored cases included 61 defendants (52 men and 9 women). As shown in the chart below the monitored cases refer to the criminal offence of THB under Article 186 of the Criminal Code of BiH (CC BiH) in 6 cases; Article 146 of the CC RS in 1 case; the criminal offence of THB under Article 210a CC FBiH in 4 cases and 3 cases under Article 210b CC FBiH; and the criminal offence of THB under Article 207a CC BDBiH in 2 cases.



In 2 monitored cases court decisions refer to the criminal offence of international enticement to prostitution prescribed under Article 187 CC BiH; in 5 cases court decisions refer to the criminal offence of enticement to prostitution under Article 210 CC FBiH.

In 7 cases charges refer to the criminal offence of neglecting and maltreating of a child or juvenile (CC FBiH, Art. 219 - 7 cases, CC RS, Art. 207 - 0 cases, 2017 CC RS, Art. 187 - 0 cases, and CC BDBiH, Art. 216 - 0 cases).

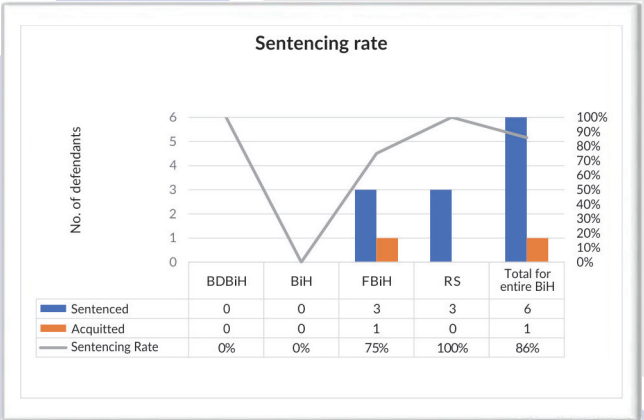
Other charges in the monitored cases included criminal offences such as the Satisfying Lust in Front of a Child or Juvenile (FBiH CC Art. 209 - 3 cases); Abuse of Child for Pornography (FBiH CC Art. 211 - 3 cases); Introducing a child to pornography (FBiH CC Art. 212 - 2 cases); Illegal production of drugs (FBiH CC Art. 238 - 1 case); Abduction of a Child or Juvenile (FBiH CC Art. 217 - 1 case); Sexual Intercourse with a Child (FBiH CC Art. 207 - 1 case); Unlawful Deprivation of Freedom (FBiH CC Art. 179 - 1 case); Rape (FBiH CC Art. 203 - 1 case); Lechery (FBiH CC Art. 208 - 1 case); Extramarital union with a child or juvenile

(RS CC Art. 184 – 1 case); Domestic Violence (BDBiH CC Art. 218 – 1 case).

In the completed cases in the period January 2024 - June 2024 the court decisions referred to the following criminal offences:



In 4 cases in the reporting period (January 2024 - June 2024), the courts found six defendants guilty and acquitted one defendant. Three defendants were given suspended sentences, two defendants were sentenced to imprisonment, one defendant was fined; the lowest sentence imposed was 3 months in prison suspended, and fine of 300 BAM, while the harshest pronounced sentence was 8 months in prison.





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