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## **Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Social Inclusion Strategy for 2021-2027**

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## Introductory Notes

The Social Inclusion Strategy aims to establish the foundation to realize equal opportunities and freedom of choice for all marginalized group in the population to actively engage in shaping the living and working conditions and self-realization of each individual. each human being. The Strategy offers a new approach to structuring development in which marginalized groups are active driving forces and agents of development. This represents a new concept, where the passive social security system is superseded by active social inclusion. Changing widespread presumptions about (limited) capacity of marginalized groups for proactive action is essential. The Strategy's approach eliminates boundaries and discrimination of people because, in the new approach, 'no one should be excluded'.

Development of the Strategy for Better Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups is a priority in the European Commission's Opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina's Application for Membership in the EU, published in May 2019, together with the need to harmonize BiH legislation and regulations with the EU standards. particularly with Chapter 19 'Social Policy and Employment' of the European Union acquis.

Drafting of the Social Inclusion Strategy is one of the measures in the Draft 2021-2027 Development Strategy of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina 'Enhance social inclusion of marginalized groups' under the priority 'Reduce poverty and social exclusion'.

The Social Inclusion Strategy has become a necessity at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, when the most vulnerable are hit the hardest, and when, in the context of worsening economic performance, public budgets will become insufficient to support increased numbers of the vulnerable and impoverished.

The first part of the Strategy presents the methodological approach and context of the document's development process. The second part is the Strategic Platform, which contains: a situational analysis for each marginalized group, vision and strategic objectives. This part provides the main demographic characteristics of the FBiH and of population migrations, as the latter phenomenon is important for understanding the process of demographic transition in the FBiH.

The third part divides strategic objectives into priority objectives and acceleration measures that would give impetus and advance the social inclusion process. Short-term objectives and the measures intended to address the social consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic are presented separately.

An overview of the links of the strategic objectives and priorities with other strategic documents is also included here. The implementation modalities of the Strategy, next steps, and arrangements for monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the progress of social inclusion are described at the end of this part. The Annex contains the statistical data.

The Strategy will also serve the competent FBiH institutions in the process of development of the Action Plan for its implementation, which will be incorporated in the most direct fashion into the agendas of the FBiH Government, competent ministries and institutions as chief implementers of specific programs and measures envisaged under the Strategy. At this stage the implementation becomes mandatory as it is integrated into the FBiH Budget and the Law on Budget Execution.

## Methodological approach (framework and limitations)

Development of the Social Inclusion Strategy is an element of the Phase Three of the EU Delegation and UNICEF's project: "Building a Social Inclusion Advocacy Platform in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Will You Stop and Listen!". implemented by the Social Inclusion Foundation in BiH and the Initiative for Better and Humane Inclusion.

This methodological approach to the Strategy development was recommended in the studies: „Towards the European Union - Situational Analysis of Social Inclusion in BiH“ and „Towards the European Union - Recommendations for Advancement of Social Inclusion in BiH“, particularly in Section VI „European Union Recommendations for Reforms in BiH“.<sup>1</sup>

Here it is important to note the opinion of the European Commission that social inclusion issues ought to be examined as the status of vulnerable groups, and not in sectoral terms. „From the standpoint of experiences of some EU Member States in our wider neighborhood (Croatia, Hungary, Greece) it appears that, at this stage of launching and planning social inclusion strategies. the focus should be on the elaboration of recommendations based on the situational analysis of the real state of legislation and policies in the areas where the crucial issues are. In reality, the above national strategies rather resemble studies of sectors essential for social inclusion and lack elaboration of policy recommendations.

„Taking into account the EC Opinion, as well as the identical findings from the preceding analysis of the key social inclusion issues, as well as the experience and practices of the EU Member States, the following priorities have been identified for the social inclusion strategies in the FBiH, RS and BDBiH:

- improving welfare of children and youth;
- fighting poverty;
- reform and development of the social protection system;
- social inclusion of persons with disabilities;
- social inclusion of the elderly;
- gender equality; and
- overcoming gender causes of social exclusion.

Within the respective strategies in the FBiH, RS and BDBiH, these priorities may be modified or amended to accommodate the specific circumstances particular to each of these administrative units.“<sup>2</sup>

On the other hand, in the FBiH, the Law on Development Planning and Management and the Decree on Preparation of Strategic Documents<sup>3</sup> defined the methodology that prescribes the steps in the process of drafting of strategic documents, which recommends the contents of a strategic document. Note that the Strategy refers to the 2021-2027 planning period. which is in line both with the EU planning dynamics and the strategic planning dynamics in the FBiH. Consequently, the situational analysis covers the preceding seven-year period.

The working drafts of the strategies in the FBiH, RS and BDBiH were prepared by the expert team that included Dr. Žarko Papić, Team Leader, Maida Fetahagić, Nataša Stevanović, Ljubo Lepir and Fahrudin Memić.

As outlined above, the FBiH Social Inclusion Strategy has been prepared by experts and the next steps for the Strategy's implementation, for the entire process of its further development, are the matters for and within the competences of the FBiH institutions, primarily the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and the European Integration Bureau of the FBiH Government, including further consultations. public discussion etc, until the Strategy's final adoption.

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<sup>1</sup> SIF in BiH/IBH: „Towards the European Union - Recommendations for Advancement of Social Inclusion in BiH“, October, 2019, p. 25.

<sup>2</sup> Ibidem, p.26.

<sup>3</sup> Law on Development Planning and Management, FBiH Official Gazette no. 32/17 and Decree on Preparation of Strategic Documents, FBiH Official Gazette no. 74/19. Apart from the above decree, other relevant decrees include the Decree on Tri-Annual and Annual Operational Planning, Monitoring and Reporting in FBiH, Decree on Evaluation of Strategic Documents in FBiH, and particularly Decree on the Production of the Development Index in FBiH, Official Gazette no. 17/19.

The Strategy will also serve the competent FBiH institutions in the process of development of the Action Plan for its implementation, which will be incorporated in the most direct fashion into the agendas of the FBiH Government, competent ministries and institutions as chief implementers of specific programs and measures envisaged under the Strategy. At this stage the implementation becomes mandatory as it is integrated into the FBiH Budget and the Law on Budget Execution.

## Context of the preparation of the FBiH Social Inclusion Strategy

### 1. Social consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic

#### Global review

In the past 30 years, the world had faced numerous crises, including health crises, from HIV/AIDS to ebola, and economic crises, such as the 2007-2009 global financial crisis. Each affected human development, wrecking lives and livelihoods of millions. Still, every year the world managed to continue development and the results of human progress are evident. The Index of Human Development alone rose from 0.598 in 1990 to 0.731 in 2018.<sup>4</sup>

The COVID-19 pandemic is different in that it simultaneously affects all dimensions of human development, and its impact on the fundamental human development dimensions: health, incomes, and education, is particularly harsh. This is a systemic crisis of human development. The pandemic and its spillovers affected every country. As a consequence, for the first time since the concept had been introduced in 1990, there will be no increase for the Human Development Index to show this year.<sup>5</sup>

Looking at healthcare, healthcare capacities and healthcare system are crucial for keeping people alive. Here we must note that the countries with high level of human development have major advantages in terms of healthcare and protection of human health. At the same time, in countries with weaker healthcare systems the attention to other health issues appears to have been suppressed or reduced, while famine-related deaths are on the rise because of restricted mobility and limited access to food in countries where famine is widespread. Here it may be of interest to take a look at some global mortality indicators for the current year. As of September 28, 2020, the world inhabited by 7.8 billion people recorded the following death statistics:

- 5.656 million children under 5 years of age
- over 6.110 million of cancer
- 3.719 million of smoking-related causes
- 1.003 million of COVID-19-related causes

In a single day, 105 thousand people died, of whom 19,822 of starvation, while 856.3 million are malnourished.<sup>6</sup>

The coronavirus pandemic caused an unprecedented disruption of education all over the world – around 1.6 billion students have not gone back to their classrooms for months. This situation has additionally deepened inequality and aggravated the already existing learning crisis, as millions of children, young people and adults have been deprived of equal access to educational process and possibilities to continue learning. UNDP estimates indicate that 86 percent of elementary-school

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<sup>4</sup> Source: <http://www.hdr.undp.org/en/content/table-2-human-development-index-trends-1990%E2%80%932018>

<sup>5</sup> Source: <https://oecd-development-matters.org/2020/09/01/covid-19-and-the-human-development-crisis-what-have-we-learned/>, accessed on September 10, 2020

<sup>6</sup> Source: <https://www.worldometers.info/>, accessed on September 28, 2020

children are not being educated in the countries with low level of human development, in comparison to only 20 percent in the countries where human development is very high.

Millions of people no longer work. But in the countries with strong social safety networks, newly unemployed workers will at least receive some income. In developing countries, workers in the informal economy account for around 70% of labor force. Only 29% of the world has comprehensive social security coverage, with insufficient investment, which is particularly acute in Africa, Asia and Arab countries.

Therefore, rising global inequality and harder access to fundamental choices and rights for leading healthy, creative and dignified lives are also ramification of the COVID-19 pandemic. The global community must work to eradicate these inequalities, or the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis will not be sustainable. While countries strove to respond to the crisis in its immediate stage, the future international response must combine economic, environmental and social progress and promote societies that leave no one behind.<sup>7</sup>

Estimates of economic and developmental losses by relevant international bodies were optimistic at the outset (-6% of GDP in 2020 in France and Germany). only to become less optimistic over time. The estimates of the Fitch Ratings agency for the U.S. and Eurozone countries (as of April 10. 2020) were that the 2020 GDP will decline by 20-30% in annual terms. The OECD estimates for 47 developed and emerging economies is 20-25% on average (Germany -30%. France -25%. Italy -25%. U.S. -25%). Such a drop in GDP on the global scale will create enormous social consequences.<sup>8</sup> Existing social security and welfare systems will not be able to sustain such a degree of economic contraction and rising poverty, which will further increase the number of people in poverty. According to its initial estimates, in April the World Bank Group projected that the COVID-19 will push 40-60 million more people into extreme poverty (according to the poverty line of 1.90 US\$. 2011 PPP).

However, social and economic ramifications of the crisis will be much more serious. Estimates based on the growth projection from the „June 2020 Global Economic Prospects“ report indicate that. during 2020, the COVID-19 could drive 71 million or as many as 100 million people into extreme poverty according to the base or the negative scenario, respectively. As a result, the global rate of extreme poverty would rise from 8.23% in 2019 to 8.82% for the base or 9.18% for the negative scenario, which could constitute the first increase in global extreme poverty since 1998. Besides, the number of people living below international poverty lines for lower- and higher-middle income countries, whose poverty rates are 3.20 US\$ and 5.50 US\$, respectively (US\$ 2011 PPP) is also forecast to increase considerably. According to the base scenario, the COVID-19 could drive additional 176 million people towards the poverty line of 3.20 US\$ per day, and further 177 million towards the poverty line of 5.50 US\$ per day (US\$ 2011 PPP). These increases would bring the poverty rate up 2.3% relative to the scenario without the COVID-19.

This will negate the worldwide progress in reducing poverty achieved since 2017. Even though a small reduction in poverty is expected in 2021, the projected effects are likely to be long-lasting. This prospect makes both the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals priorities for both recovery and development of all countries, but also requires every country to face the grave impact of the pandemic on poverty.

Job losses have disrupted the labor markets throughout the world, which caused greater loss in term of working hours than initially estimated. According to the estimates of the International Labor

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<sup>7</sup> According to: <https://oecd-development-matters.org/2020/09/01/covid-19-and-the-human-development-crisis-what-have-we-learned/>, accessed on September 10, 2020

<sup>8</sup> See: Ž. Papić: Socijalne posljedice COVID 19 pandemije: U vidicima Sarajevskog zatočeništva, available at: <http://www.ibhi.ba/>

Organization (ILO), total losses in working hours in the second quarter of 2020 (relative to the fourth quarter of 2019) were 17.3% or 495 million of FTE (full-time equivalent) jobs (estimates for the first quarter were 14% or 400 million FTE jobs). Low- and middle-income countries, which estimated the reduction in working hours of 23.3% (240 million of FTE jobs) in the second quarter of this year, were hit the hardest.

Losses in working hours are projected to remain high in the third quarter of 2020, at 12.1% or 345 million FTE jobs. Moreover, the revised projections for the fourth quarter suggest even worse prospects than originally estimated. In the base scenario, the losses in working time in the last quarter of 2020 will be 8.6% or 245 million FTE jobs.<sup>9</sup>

The latest data confirm that the losses in working hours are reflected in higher levels of unemployment and inactivity, with inactivity rising faster than unemployment. The increasing inactivity is a significant aspect of the ongoing jobs crises, which demands full policy attention. The decline in employment levels is generally higher for women than for men.

The estimated decline of the global GDP solely from job losses for the first three quarters of 2020 is 10.7% or 3.5 trillion US\$, which is equivalent to 5.5% of the global GDP for the comparable period in 2019. The GDP decline caused by job losses is the highest in middle-income countries, 15.1% and 11.4% in lower- and higher-middle income countries, respectively.

#### Bosnia and Herzegovina

Economic slowdown caused by the global onset of the COVID-19 and the associated potential losses of jobs and incomes are likely to have a short-term effect on poverty. Simulations indicate that consumption is likely to contract by 3.5-6.7% across the income scale, so an upsurge in poverty is projected from 11.8% to 12.9% and 14.6% in 2019 and 2020, respectively. Depending on whether the crisis lasts one or two quarters, between 35,000 and 85,000 people are likely to become poor. Prior to the pandemic, poverty among the workers in most affected sector was around 9%. However, this rate is likely to rise to 11% in Scenario 1 and to 15% in Scenario 2. It is worrisome that more than 60% of people who are likely to become poor due to the COVID-19 crisis are currently not covered by any social protection program.<sup>10</sup>

The socio-economic situation in BiH was dire even before the COVID-19 pandemic. A general preoccupation with political tension, inter-ethnic relations, blockages, failure to form governments, patriotism vs. separatism, has persisted for years, while the social situation is in the news only when workers are on strike and veterans are protesting. There is no pertinent preliminary estimate of economic losses in BiH generated by the crisis caused by the pandemic. In general terms, the GDP contraction and social consequences in BiH appear likely to be greater than the losses in developed countries and the EU. After the 2008 financial crisis, BiH needed five years to return to the GDP level reached in 2007.<sup>11</sup>

The dependence of BiH on the state of EU economies is extremely high, so a crisis in the EU will result in an enormous drop in exports and in imports of primary materials, which means an overall decrease in industrial output. Major tightening is inevitable in tourism, catering and other services. A decline of domestic consumption and a shift in its composition will further disrupt the conditions in various economic sectors. Unemployment will increase considerably, while the government subsidies to

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<sup>9</sup> Source: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/documents/briefingnote/wcms\\_755910.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/documents/briefingnote/wcms_755910.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> Ibidem, p. 7.

<sup>11</sup> The U.S. subsidized its economy by about 20% (3,000 billion implemented and 2,000 million in preparation) of its annual BDP (which is equivalent to around 3% of the global GDP), Germany took similar steps, etc. For the FBiH, instead of 1 billion BAM, the equivalent would be 4 billion BAM, which constitutes around 20% of the GDP in the FBiH. Let us not forget that the economies of the U.S. and Germany are in a much better state. Papić, ibidem, p. 4

preserve jobs (by subsidizing minimum wages and contributions in the short term) *de facto* leads to salary reductions. Which would cause a sudden major upsurge in poverty.

Measured by the absolute poverty methodology (income level that ensures a minimum existence), poverty in BiH is far more widespread than official data reveal. Absolute poverty analyses are rare and only conducted under the auspices of various international organizations' projects. However, it is possible to estimate that 4-6% more inhabitants of BiH find themselves below the absolute poverty line. In numerical terms, this means 175,000-210,000 inhabitants more, in 2017, around 591,000 inhabitants of BiH lived in relative, and some 800,000 (around 23%) in absolute poverty.

Consequently, the COVID-19 crisis will undoubtedly lead to a sudden and major growth of poverty in BiH. Besides rising unemployment and declining wages, the following processes are also contributing:

- A major economic contraction in the EU Member States, combined with social insecurity, will open a process of return of the diaspora to BiH. On the other hand, closing of the EU countries to economic migration due to rising unemployment will make it more difficult for young people to emigrate, which will increase unemployment in BiH.
- A substantial drop in diaspora remittances, which had represented a crucially important source of revenue in the post-war period. In recent years, remittances accounted for nearly 10% of the GDP and constituted a kind of „grey social protection system“.
- The reduction in economic activity will drastically reduce public revenues, the budgetary crisis will objectively spill over into cuts to pensions and social transfers. Rather than direct cuts, inflation looks likely to be the tool of these reductions. Consequently, even the existing beneficiaries will be driven more deeply into poverty, and social security systems will be unable to receive new beneficiaries.

In the expected major worsening of the social situation in BiH, the fight against poverty and new social policies must be a priority for governments and parliaments.

In mid-2020, an analysis of the state of social protection was conducted in three cantons in the FBiH, with particular focus on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the social security system. The study was conducted by UNICEF in cooperation with the associations of social workers (in the Central Bosnia, Tuzla and Zenica-Doboj Cantons). In brief, the key findings of this study were:

It is clear that the pandemic, as a form of emergency situation in the FBiH, uncovered policy weaknesses and failures of key stakeholders, while clearly revealing the high degree of social inclusion of beneficiary populations. The pandemic imposed severe consequences, as a quite considerable number of workers were let go, while some citizens are in the state of social need, which necessitates development of new models of support for individuals and categories at risk.

The results of this study also confirmed that the pandemic further worsens material conditions of social protection beneficiaries, particularly of children and the elderly, because of additional needs for financial and specialist support which the system is unable to provide in an adequate and timely fashion. It is also noteworthy that the current regulations and benefit eligibility criteria are in no way based on real needs, but on status, which implies the need for systemic changes at the level of both the FBiH and BiH.

The study results showed that families with children really need additional financial support, as it was established that 71% of beneficiaries have underage children in their households, while as many as 20% of beneficiaries have children with disabilities, which has extensive deleterious ramifications for children.

From the professional standpoint, the social protection system in the FBiH is encumbered by bureaucratic and administrative formalities. Therefore, it cannot focus on practical social and other professional work with individuals and families at risk or in a state of social need, particularly when a state of emergency is in force. Qualifications of the staff at the social protection institutions meet only minimal professional criteria and may adversely affect service provision.

It became evident that social protection institutions mostly lack plans and procedures for operating in emergency circumstances, nor have vulnerability risk assessments been conducted. During the pandemic, employees lacked appropriate protection equipment required to work in emergency circumstances and under the conditions of a new health challenge.

In view of these experiences, the FBiH Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and the RS Ministry of Health and Social Protection, in cooperation with UNICEF and within the scope of their regular activities under the social protection and inclusion programmes, agreed on activities regarding the development of a practical Manual that would define the role and procedures of centers for social work in crisis situations caused by natural disasters. As a result, the Manual for Actions of Centers for Social Work in Emergency Situations Caused by Natural Disasters has been developed.

The analysis led to the following crucial recommendations:

- pay greater attention to strategic planning in social protection, which is particular importance as it aids the system to focus its vision and priorities in changing circumstances and ensure that all relevant systemic institutions strive towards the same goals;
- in line with international standards, prioritize development and investment in family-based forms of caring for children without parental care over institutional care in all strategic plans;
- pay special attention to children and youth, as an investment in development and better economic outcomes for the society, and award them priority in all strategic documents;
- in all competent cantonal ministries, establish dedicated departments for protection and rights of children in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- increase budget allocations for children and youth on all levels, as well as for the child benefit and other cash benefits that children and youth are eligible for; link cash benefits with provision of services for children and families through integrated case management;
- intensify preventive social work in the community and ensure continuing education of professional staff in this field;
- establish mechanisms to involve beneficiaries in the process of designing policies and social services; and
- launch development of risk/vulnerability assessments and action plans for emergency situations and start developing emergency operational procedures in all social protection institutions.

#### Education and stigmatization

The context of social consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and social inclusion requires highlighting two issues, one related to children and education and the other to the phenomenon of stigmatization.

Closing schools leaves profound mark on students. If children do not attend classes at school, it might contribute to broadening the gap in education, cause considerable losses and lagging behind in learning during and after the pandemic-induced crisis, increase the risk of dropping out, particularly for children from vulnerable families, and disrupt the quality of educational outcomes even for coming generations. BiH had faced a learning crisis even before the pandemic, as the Program for International Student Assessment ([PISA 2018](#)) revealed that more than 50% of children in BiH do not achieve even the minimum level of functional literacy in language, natural sciences and mathematics. Some estimates indicate that this percentage may increase further because of the pandemic crisis.

The longer students are out of school, the higher the likelihood that they will never return to their classrooms. This holds particularly true for most vulnerable children, such as Roma, children from rural communities, children from poorer families, migrant children or children with developmental difficulties. But the losses and learning lags are not the only risk that children and youth face. Besides their educational function, schools also represent an environment that provides children with a number of basic services, such as mental health support, health checkups and therapy services. In addition, schools also offer physical security to many children. The question of the level of equipment of schools and of teachers' competences for the distance learning option, and naturally of the availability of the necessary equipment and Internet access to children at home.

Safe reopening of schools is a challenging process which requires a strategic and multisectoral approach, grounded in educational, health, social, economic and psychological arguments, primarily to ensure equal access to education for every child and particularly for the most vulnerable.

Stigmatization is inevitably associated with infectious diseases. In the case of the ongoing epidemic of COVID-19, which is of global proportions, unprecedented stigmatization gains additional dimensions and highlights the need of sound understanding of the causes of the disease and of providing complete and stimulating answers that detect all stigmatization factors on different levels. Stigma is most frequently a reaction to fear and it implies activities that equally affect the mind of the victim and that of the perpetrators of discriminatory behavior. Such activities entail manifold undesirable social consequences and require a change of attitudes towards stigmatized groups and individuals, but also to the disease itself. Marginalized groups are anyhow at risk of stigmatization, and COVID-19 provokes a new kind of stigmatization. Conversely, a positive attitude of individuals and the community, compassion, empathy and support for coronavirus patients and their families help surmount the crisis more quickly and efficiently and, most importantly, restore the inborn dignity of any human being.

## 2. EU integration process

Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted its application for membership in the European Union on 15th February 2016, and, at the summit of the EU and the Western Balkans countries held in Sofia in May 2018, the EU leaders affirmed their unqualified support for the European perspective of the Western Balkans, while their Western Balkan partners reiterated their commitment to this perspective, which represents their strategic choice.

For the purposes of preparation of the Opinion on the Application for Membership, a Questionnaire that would be used to assess the degree to which BiH meets the EU membership criteria and its ability to advance in the European integration process to the candidate status and the opening of accession negotiations was submitted to BiH in December 2016. In such an opinion, the European Commission succinctly presents the relations between the EU and the State, an evaluation of the degree of meeting the EU membership criteria (1993 Copenhagen criteria and 1995 Madrid criteria), and an assessment of the progress achieved and of the influence of the State's accession on the EU, with a corresponding recommendation.

BiH submitted its responses to the European Commission's Questionnaire in February 2018, and the responses to supplementary questions in the European Commission's Questionnaire in March 2019. The European Commission adopted the Opinion on the Application of BiH for Membership in the European Union on 29th May 2019, with an accompanying Analytical Report, which provided a detailed analysis

and assesment of the situation in the country in connection with the political and economic criteria and 33 chapters of the *acquis*, as well as an estimate of what needs to be done in the coming period.<sup>12</sup>

The overall assessment of the European Commission was that „in BiH there is no policy area in which the country is well prepared or it has made good progress in terms of its capacities to assume obligations that arise from the membership in the European Union“. Covering the Questionnaire's 33 chapters, the Commission assessed that 15 were in an early stage of preparedness (including social policy and employment), 16 are on a certain nivo of preparedness, and only two are moderately prepared.

Social policy is in the group of least well prepared areas. In the Analytical Report (Chapter 19), attached to the Commission's Opinion, the poor assessment of social policy is elaborated: „the preparations of BiH to access the European Social Fund have not started yet... regarding social inclusion and protection, there is no state-level poverty reduction and social inclusion and protection strategy, nor a system to monitor country-wide policy implementation“. Specific criticism is focused on the status of:

- children, since „nearly one-third (31.6%) of children 5-15 years of age face the poverty risk“;
- persons with disabilities, due to „predominance of institutional care and failure to provide adequate support to services in the community“;
- the social protection system („underdeveloped, while efficiency of welfare benefits is limited... social assistance is not well targeted nor is it need-based... hence the poverty reduction effects are very limited“);
- women, because of the low level of „application of regulations banning discrimination“;
- the elderly, because there are „no systemic measures to improve the situation of the elderly“.<sup>13</sup>

it was also noted that the entity social inclusion and protection strategies were not implemented „due to the lack of funding, unsuitable procedures and standards and, generally, because of the lack of coordination“. The Opinion addressed fourteen key priorities that would contribute to structural strengthening of the legislative and institutional framework, which is a precondition for opening the negotiations on the accession of BiH to the European Union. Key Priority 13 is „to improve protection and inclusion of vulnerable groups, particularly of persons with disabilities, children, LGBT population, members of the Roma community, prison inmates, migrants and asylum seekers, as well as displaced persons and refugees“.

### 3. Agenda 2030 and SDGs

At the UN Sustainable Development Summit held in New York in September 2015, the UN Member States, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, adopted the document Transforming Our World: the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a monitoring framework. This is a fundamental global political platform for addressing numerous challenges of our time in their interconnected economic, social, environmental, and political-security dimensions.

In addition, the Agenda 2030 also includes the UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction for 2015-2030, Action Plan of the Third UN Conference on Development Financing from July 2015, and Paris Climate Change Accords from April 2016.

The dimensions of sustainable development (environmental, social, and economic) are implemented through seventeen sustainable development goals and 169 closely interlinked targets in areas such as:

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<sup>12</sup> Both documents are available at: <http://europa.ba/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Analiti%C4%8Dki-izvje%C5%A1taj-Mi%C5%A1ljenje-Komisije-o-zahhtjevu-Bosne-i-Hercegovine-za-%C4%8Dlanstvo-u-Evropskoj-uniji.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> Analytical Report (enclosed with the European Commission's Opinion on the Application of Bosnia and Herzegovina for Membership in the EU), pp. 134-135, <https://www.adsfbih.gov.ba/Content/DownloadAttachment?id=e2584195-6a32-4b6c-9b2e-1ac9fe8fe48e>

poverty and inequality, food security, quality of life and well-being for all, health, education, responsible consumption and production, employment, growth, infrastructure, sustainable natural resource management, climate change, gender equality, adaptable, inclusive and sustainable cities and towns, as well as access to justice and effective and accountable institutions.<sup>14</sup> The Agenda strongly emphasizes a holistic approach to development by linking three dimensions of development: economic development, social inclusion and environmental sustainability.

The Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals rest on three core principles:

1. Universality, which implies the duty and willingness of all countries to implement them, with respect for internal arrangements and level of development, which contribute to the overall effort towards sustainable development in all contexts and times.
2. Integration of all aspects of sustainable development, which implies balanced economic growth with protection of the environment and natural resources together with simultaneous creation of a just society and reduction of inequality.
3. „Leave No One Behind“ Principle, which seeks to eliminate multidimensional causes of poverty and inequality, as well as discrimination in all its forms. Putting this principle in practice requires governance and accountability mechanisms on all levels, from the local to the international, to ensure implementation of measures to promote equality.<sup>15</sup>

In 2016, the UN Sustainable Development Group introduced the „MAPS“ platform for Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support for sustainability goals, which is used to support implementation of the Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals in some 50 developing countries, including BiH. The MAPS processes in the Western Balkans promote the coherence of sustainable development policies with EU accession policies.

Bosnia and Herzegovina recognized importance and potential of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030 as a way toward significant improvement of social, economic and environmental aspects of life in the country and toward strengthening of the regional cooperation.

### Sustainable Development Goals Framework in BiH

The first step in implementation of the Agenda 2030 in Bosnia and Herzegovina was development of the Sustainable Development Goals Framework in BiH as a joint document of all levels of government that sets out broader directions of development that will guide the authorities on all levels and the society in BiH in their striving to contribute to implementation of the SDGs. The analysis of the status of sustainable development in BiH, i.e., of the key development trends, opportunities and obstacles, particularly in the context of accession of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the European Union, and comprehensive consultations conducted with representatives of the institutions on all levels of government and with socioeconomic stakeholders in 2018-2019 identified three sustainable development pathways in Bosnia and Herzegovina: 1) Good Governance and Public Sector Management, 2) Smart Growth, and 3) Society of Equal Opportunities, as well as two horizontal themes: 1) Human Capital for the Future and 2) Leave No One Behind Principle.<sup>16</sup>

- Good governance and public sector management, in order to build an accountable, transparent, efficient and effective public sector that can ensure rule of law. Specific priorities include improvement of the policy development and coordination process, provision of better services for

<sup>14</sup> <https://undg.org/2030-agenda/>. The full text of the Agenda 2030 in Croatia is available at:

[http://www.expeditio.org/images/2014\\_new\\_documents/AGENDA%20za%20odrzivi%20razvoj%20do%202030.%20UN%2025%2009%202015%20CG%20verzija.pdf](http://www.expeditio.org/images/2014_new_documents/AGENDA%20za%20odrzivi%20razvoj%20do%202030.%20UN%2025%2009%202015%20CG%20verzija.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> UNDP BiH: Sustainable Development Goals Framework in BiH (Working Material, Sarajevo, January 2020, p. 1

(<http://www.zamisliti2030.ba/>))

<sup>16</sup> Ibidem, p. 3.

citizens and the business community, improved management of financial resources, reform of public enterprises, curbing corruption, and ensuring the functionality of the justice system.

- Smart growth, whose goal is to ensure transformation of innovative and productive ideas into products and services that may result in creation of professional-level, high-paying jobs, which would lead to higher productivity and faster growth in combination with the preservation of natural capital and reduction of social inequality. This pillar requires development of entrepreneurship, industrial policy and transformation in key sectors, in combination with proactive promotion of innovative capacities and productivity, incentivizing fast-growing companies and creation of an innovation sector as prerequisites to create prosperity, which is primarily a result of creation of high-paying jobs. This developmental pillar emphasizes sustainable economic growth, which implies smart management of natural resources, combined with the use of clean energy (green growth) and a greater resilience to natural disasters to lead to emergence of a more just society and reduce inequality.
- The society of equal opportunities, to implement the „Leave No One Behind“ Principle. In addition to public administration reform and faster growth of incomes and employment, this requires strengthening the social protection system in BiH, as well as improvement of access to education, training and labor markets, to better protect those at the greatest risk of poverty and vulnerability (e.g., the elderly, children and adults with disabilities, residents of remote rural areas, national minorities and certain categories of women and children), advance social cohesion, and restore citizens' trust in institutions. At the same time, rights-based access to healthcare requires that health policies and programs must prioritize the needs of the most excluded to increase the degree of equality, which is a principle that was reiterated in the recently adopted Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and Universal Health Coverage.<sup>17</sup>

Two horizontal themes: Human Capital and „Leave No One Behind“ Principle link together the strategic pillars of development:

- Human Capital is one of the core development factors, so its development is among the main priorities for all countries. Realizing that accelerated development is impossible without strong human capital, this Framework strives to integrate the significance of investment in new and maintenance of existing human capital into the adopted development pillars.
- Putting the „Leave No One Behind“ Principle in practice requires governance and accountability mechanisms from the local to the international level. This also means that there are measures that ensure visibility of the progress in implementation of the „Leave No One Behind“ Principle through the steps taken in the process of reaching targets related to achieving equality. Achieving SDGs will not be possible if the poorest and most vulnerable remain neglected and if they do not benefit from the attained progress and advances in society. It is important to look beyond the average situation and recognize who is neglected and excluded in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in what parts of the country they are situated, what the causes and consequences are of their being neglected, and what policies should be formulated to improve their position in society.

Furthermore, for each development pillar there are accelerators and drivers that should lead to desired changes by 2030. Besides, in line with the requirements of the Agenda 2030 and the obligations assumed by Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Sustainable Development Goals Framework in BiH also sets out specific targets, as well as the indicators for measuring progress.

For the context of this Social Inclusion Strategy, a core approach, a starting point is to rely on the Strategic Pillar Equal Opportunity Society, which promotes fulfillment of the „Leave No One Behind“ Principle. The focus of this pillar, in addition to the above, is also on activation, development of skills and opportunities for lifelong learning for persons with limited labor market access. In broader terms,

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<sup>17</sup> WHO – Human Rights and Health, <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/human-rights-and-health>

people need protection from risks and shocks that might push them into poverty in the course of their lives.<sup>18</sup>

The accelerators set out under the Society of Equal Opportunities Pillar are:

Accelerator 1: Advancing the social protection policies (purposeful and better targeted allocation of public expenditures for social protection; advancing identification and tracking of vulnerable families and families at risk; and strengthening the infrastructure and competences of service providers through introduction of new models of service provision).

Accelerator 2: Activation and employment with the focus on vulnerable groups (increasing the activity rate and inclusion of vulnerable categories into the labor market; increasing employability of the unemployed through development of social entrepreneurship; and activation and employment of vulnerable groups).

Accelerator 3: Effective healthcare for all (implementation of healthcare reforms; improving approaches and quality of healthcare services; strategic approaches to retention of existing staff and to development of human resources in the healthcare sector in general; and preventive healthcare measures).

Accelerator 4: Enhanced inclusivity of education systems (equal access to education; reduction of the number of persons without knowledge and skills for their integration into the labor market; creation of an early warning and intervention system for children at risk and with developmental disabilities, measures to counter dropping out of school; and increased enrollment in pre-school education).

Accelerator 5: Financial inclusion (improving access to financial services for more vulnerable categories of the population; and better access to low-interest microcredits).

Structured this way, the Sustainable Development Goals Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina is a foundation for guiding the current and future strategic planning processes in BiH. All levels of government in BiH will define their priorities, measures and actions pursuant with their respective constitutional competences and contribute to achievement of the Agenda 2030.

#### 4. Disaster and climate change risk

Climate change forecast indicate that the Balkan region should expect increased incidence, unpredictability and intensity of floods, droughts, heatwaves and fires, which would impact negatively on each country's GDP, as well as on a number of key sectors, and, most importantly, on people's lives and livelihoods. The following comparison demonstrates that this risk is increasing rapidly. Between 2000 and 2013, there were three fatal floods in the Western Balkans, which affected 193,384 persons and inflicted damages of 148.1 million US\$. In 2014-2015, there were 81 fatal floods (27 times more), 2.85 million people were affected (13 times more), and economic losses were 4.63 billion US\$ (31 times greater). Estimated consequences of potential earthquakes in BiH affect 16% of the population and 26% of the GDP, and potential floods endanger 29% of the population and 11% of the GDP.

The floods that hit BiH in 2014 left indelible traces on the entire country. The disaster took many lives, destroyed homes of many citizens and devastated infrastructure, leaving properties and people extremely vulnerable and in need of assistance. The floods also directly threatened lives of 60,000 children. Various analyses of this disaster, whose consequences are still felt, revealed that preventative action that had been taken was insufficient and that there is a gap between what could have been done and what was actually done.

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<sup>18</sup> WHO – Human Rights and Health, <https://www.who.it/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/human-rights-and-health>

The 2014 floods were estimated to have negated five years of development, i.e., that the economic and social development backslid to the level of five years before. This predominantly relates to the Index of Human Development in the areas of reduced output and incomes, reduced access to healthcare, reduced protection of children in education, and increasing poverty.<sup>19</sup>

The 2014 floods served as a powerful reminder of Bosnia and Herzegovina's vulnerability to natural disasters, both weather-related and those of geological nature. According to the estimated needs for flood recovery in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the total damages from the 2014 floods were around 1.7 billion US\$.

According to the findings of the 2017 Global Risk Report, BiH is considered a country with high exposure to natural disaster risks. Despite its exposure to risks, the authorities did not adopt an appropriate approach nor did they take stronger action to introduce preventive measures. There is a particular need to implement disaster risk mitigation strategies that pay particular attention to vulnerable children and women.

„The Disaster Risk Mitigation for Sustainable Development in Bosnia and Herzegovina is a joint program of the Government of Switzerland and the United Nations (UN) worth 8.4 million BAM. The program's objective is to address key priorities in the field of mitigation of disaster risks identified by local authorities and competent ministries in various sectors: protection and rescue, education, social and child protection, health and agriculture. The program emphasizes strengthening local coordination mechanisms for risk disaster mitigation, and promotion of risk-informed strategic planning with a focus on most vulnerable groups.

The most vulnerable groups are the poor, women, children, elderly, persons with disabilities, minorities, migrants, displaced persons, and farmers. In the context of examination of the key social inclusion issues, vulnerability of children is of particular significance. Children are certainly most vulnerable due to their high degree of dependence on adults, and on social and healthcare services. Nowadays, nearly 280,000 children live in the areas at high risk of flooding and landslides, which constitutes 38% of the total number of children in BiH. Exposure to disaster risk directly jeopardizes realization of children's rights and deepens existing social inequalities. Consequently, inequality, poverty, and reduced access to quality support systems are key drivers of children's vulnerability to disasters and climate change.“<sup>20</sup>

The disaster risk-mitigation strategies are therefore of high importance for BiH and should be incorporated into all development strategies.

## 5. New approach to social inclusion

On the global level, formulation of a new development concept started in 1990 in the UN with the introduction of the concept of human development as a developmental approach. The concept of human development with a holistic vision of development puts people at the center of all development processes: all aspects of life – economic, social, political, cultural, and environmental are viewed from the perspective of broadening of the freedom of choice, expanding options and improving human lives. The concept of human development emphasizes that economic growth is the means to an end and that it is unsustainable without social development. People are at the focus of all changes as well as the ultimate beneficiaries of achievements of all development. People are both the means and the purpose of development, and for that reason they need to participate in all processes of work and action,

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<sup>19</sup> UNDP Human Development Report 2016; „Risk-Profiling the Western Balkans. Empowering People to Prevent Disasters“, Sarajevo 2016, pp. 41-47 and 85

<sup>20</sup> FBiH Government: Strateški plan za unapređenje ranog rasta i razvoja djece u Federaciji BiH 2020-2025, November 2020, p. 55

without discrimination in development. This notion is also at the foundation of social inclusion, with people as active participants in all processes.

The Millennium Development Goals (UN 2000), oriented on strengthening of human potential and equality and pursued until 2015, contributed the development of this new concept.

The Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, with its pillars of Universality, Integration and „Leave No One Behind“, represents potentially transformative, people-oriented, rights-based obligations to end poverty and protect the Planet. The „Leave No One Behind“ Principle seeks to abolish multidimensional causes of poverty and inequality, as well as discrimination in all its forms. Putting this principle into practice will require governance and accountability mechanisms on all levels, from the local to the international, to guarantee the implementation of measures to advance equality.

Social inclusion is a basic tool of implementation of the new development concept based on the Agenda 2030 and on its actualization through SDGs, as a framework for tracking development. This fact makes it also an important element of the EU integration, mainly because human capital, its development and strengthening constitute the very foundation of all development. This view is reflected in the priorities of the Social Inclusion Strategy stated in the document "Towards the European Union – Key Social Inclusion Issues in BiH".

As to the „philosophy“ of this new development concept, understanding that social inclusion expenditures are investments into human capital, as a driver of development, and not a cost of maintaining social peace, is crucial. This view is affirmed in the documents of the Council of Europe and European Parliament.

„In a globalized economy, all countries, and particularly those that are in the stage of macroeconomic stabilization, are under pressure to reduce social protection. While social protection should be economically sustainable, we must not disregard that social expenditures, by creating foundations for a stable and sustainable society, represent a rational investment in future economic sustainability, rather than a burden on society.“<sup>21</sup>

Invoking the fundamental principles of the „Leave No One Behind“ program until 2030, the European Parliament also requires prioritization of „the poorest and most marginalized“<sup>22</sup>. The Sustainable Development Goals Framework in BiH lays down three development pathways<sup>23</sup>. Besides the public administration reform and faster growth of incomes and employment, this implies strengthening of the social protection system in BiH, as well as improved approaches to education, training and the labor market, to better protect those facing the greatest poverty and vulnerability risk (e.g., elderly, children and persons with disabilities, residents of remote rural areas, national minorities and certain categories of women and children), improve social cohesion and restore citizens' trust in institutions.

In view of their significance for the Agenda 2030 and the context of Bosnia and Herzegovina, two horizontal themes that are crosscutting through the three above development pathways have also been formulated: Investment in Human Capital for the Future and „Leave No One Behind“ Principle.

Achieving the SDGs will not be possible if the poorest and most vulnerable remain ignored and if they do not benefit from achieved progress and advances of society. It is important to look beyond the average situation and recognize who is neglected and excluded in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in what parts of the country they are situated, what the causes and consequences are of their being neglected, and

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<sup>21</sup> „Revised Social Cohesion Strategy, Council of Europe, March 31, 2004 (<https://hrcak.srce.hr/30193>)

<sup>22</sup> Resolution of the European Parliament of July 6, 2017 on EU sustainability measures, Strasbourg, July 6, 2017 ([http://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/a-8-2018-0252\\_HR.html#title1](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/a-8-2018-0252_HR.html#title1))

<sup>23</sup> UNDP, Sustainable Development Goals Framework in BiH, Draft, 2020, development pathways: Good Governance and Public Sector Management, Smart Growth, and Society of Equal Opportunities.

what policies should be formulated to improve their position in society. All three development pathways emphasize the need to focus on policies and measures that target the neglected and excluded segments of the population (positive discrimination).

The new approach to development puts people at the center, as both the object and active participant in all changes. The human development concept, as an approach to development, represents a response to a model of development that provides solutions for development based on inclusion, development in which every child and every person participate in development processes, influence shaping of conditions and spaces where they live and work, and thereby become both integral parts and active participants of sustainable development. This is also a path towards achievement of the SDGs, on which no one should be excluded.

## Strategic platform

### Situational analysis

#### 1. Main indicators – FBiH. 2019

|                                                              |                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Official name                                                | Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina                                                                            |
| Entity structure                                             | FBiH is administratively divided into 10 cantons.<br>The cantons are divided into a total of 79 municipalities. |
| Capital                                                      | Sarajevo                                                                                                        |
| Surface area. km <sup>2</sup>                                | 26,109.7                                                                                                        |
| Total population (mid-year)                                  | 2,190,098                                                                                                       |
| Population density, inhabitants/km <sup>2</sup>              | 83.9                                                                                                            |
| Population structure:                                        |                                                                                                                 |
| 0-14                                                         | 320,184                                                                                                         |
| 15-64                                                        | 1,526,894                                                                                                       |
| 65 and over                                                  | 343,020                                                                                                         |
| Birth rate, per mille                                        | 8.2                                                                                                             |
| Death reate, per mille                                       | -10.1                                                                                                           |
| Rate of population growth. per mille                         | -1.9                                                                                                            |
| Employees, registered, Dec. 31                               | 535,206                                                                                                         |
| Unemployed, registered, Dec. 31                              | 307,864                                                                                                         |
| Unemployed women. registered                                 | 182,081                                                                                                         |
| Rate of employment of the workforce %                        | 35.1                                                                                                            |
| Unemployment rate, %                                         | 36.5                                                                                                            |
| Employment data according to the Labor Force Survey (ILO), % |                                                                                                                 |
| Activity rate                                                | 39.1                                                                                                            |
| Activity rate, women                                         | 29.0                                                                                                            |
| Employment rate                                              | 31.9                                                                                                            |
| Employment rate, women                                       | 23.0                                                                                                            |
| Employment rate, youth                                       | 21.3                                                                                                            |
| Unemployment rate                                            | 18.4                                                                                                            |
| Unemployment rate, women                                     | 21.7                                                                                                            |
| Unemployment rate, youth                                     | 39.3                                                                                                            |
| Average monthly net wage, BAM                                | 928                                                                                                             |
| Gross Domestic Product, in BAM thousand, 2018                | 23,080,794                                                                                                      |
| Gross Domestic product per capita - GDP/pc in BAM            | 10,539                                                                                                          |
| Registered businesses                                        | 112,955                                                                                                         |
| Investments, in BAM thousands                                | 3,036,642                                                                                                       |
| Number of tourists                                           | 1,226,975                                                                                                       |
| Import, in BAM thousands                                     | 13,844,811                                                                                                      |
| Exports, in BAM thousands                                    | 7,620,114                                                                                                       |
| Rate of imports coverage, %                                  | 55.0                                                                                                            |
| Children in preschool institutions                           | 16,756                                                                                                          |
| Students in elementary schools (school year 2019/2020)       | 179,781                                                                                                         |
| Students in secondary schools (school year 2019/2020)        | 72, 892                                                                                                         |
| University students (school year 2019/2020)                  | 58,048                                                                                                          |
| Social protection beneficiaries                              | 337,003                                                                                                         |
| Pensioners, Dec. 21, 2019                                    | 424,009                                                                                                         |
| Average pension, BAM                                         | 416                                                                                                             |
| Inhabitants per physician                                    | 445                                                                                                             |
| Inhabitants per dentist                                      | 3,699                                                                                                           |
| Absolute poverty rate, % of population, 2015                 | 23.0                                                                                                            |

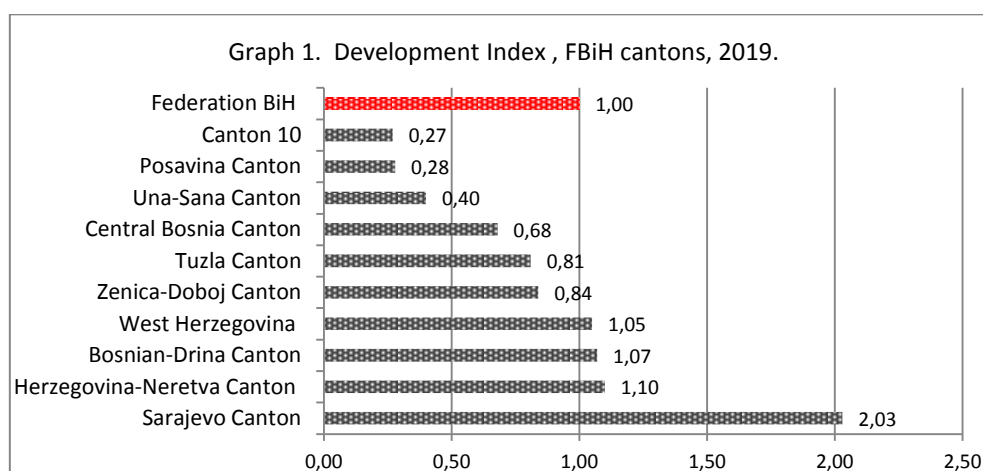
Source: Federation Statistics Institute

Disparity in the level of development between the cantons in the FBiH. measured by the Development Index. is quite pronounced. The Development Index subsumes several key indicators: income tax/pc, employment rate, population growth, share of elderly population and educational level.<sup>24</sup> The index generated in this manner is used for comparisons between cantons.

Table 1: Level of development FBiH cantons, 2019

| Canton no. | Canton                     | Revenue from income tax pc | Employment rate | Population growth 2013-2019 | Share of elderly population 2013-2019 | Educational level of the population | Development Index | Rank of the canton |
|------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 9          | Sarajevo Canton            | 3.15                       | 2.31            | 1.83                        | 0.79                                  | 1.47                                | 2.03              | 1                  |
| 7          | Herzegovina-Neretva Canton | 1.36                       | 1.19            | 0.73                        | 0.55                                  | 1.46                                | 1.10              | 2                  |
| 5          | Bosnian-Drina Canton       | 1.29                       | 1.78            | 0.55                        | 0.32                                  | 1.17                                | 1.07              | 3                  |
| 8          | West Herzegovina Canton    | 0.77                       | 0.79            | 0.92                        | 0.77                                  | 2.00                                | 1.05              | 4                  |
| 4          | Zenica-Doboj Canton        | 0.48                       | 0.94            | 0.90                        | 1.26                                  | 0.81                                | 0.84              | 5                  |
| 3          | Tuzla Canton               | 0.53                       | 0.85            | 0.98                        | 1.03                                  | 0.78                                | 0.81              | 6                  |
| 6          | Central Bosnia Canton      | 0.20                       | 0.63            | 0.84                        | 1.30                                  | 0.73                                | 0.68              | 7                  |
| 1          | Una-Sana Canton            | 0.04                       | 0.00            | 0.82                        | 1.52                                  | 0.00                                | 0.40              | 8                  |
| 2          | Posavina Canton            | 0.15                       | 0.15            | 0.01                        | 0.61                                  | 0.59                                | 0.28              | 9                  |
| 10         | Canton 10                  | 0.00                       | 0.01            | 0.00                        | 0.00                                  | 1.34                                | 0.27              | 10                 |

Source: Federation Development Programming Institute: Macroeconomic Indicators. by FBiH Cantons. June 2020. p. 8.



The top ranked is the Sarajevo Canton, which is the most highly developed canton in the FBiH, twice above the average level of development of the FBiH. The Canton 10 and Posavina Canton are ranked the lowest. The Herzegovina-Neretva, Bosnia-Drina and West Herzegovina Cantons are above the level of average development in the FBiH.

## 6. Demographic snapshot and migrations

### Demographic snapshot of the FBiH

<sup>24</sup> For more on the Development Index, see: Federation Development Programming Institute: Macroeconomic Indicators, by FBiH Cantons, June 2020. The Development Index was introduced by a special government decree (Decree on the Development Index, published in the FBiH Official Gazette no. 17/2019).

According to the 2013 Census, the population of the FBiH was 2,219,220. The Tuzla and Sarajevo cantons were the most populous, with 445,058 and 412,593 inhabitants, respectively.

In mid-2019, the population of the FBiH was 2,190,098, which was 1.3% less than according to the 2013 Census (average growth rate of -0.2%). The birth rate was in decline during this entire period, from 9.1 per mille in 2013 to 8.2 per mille in 2019 on average. Birth rates fell in all cantons, with the Una-Sana, Tuzla and Bosnia-Drina cantons recording lowest birth rates.

At the same time, the mortality rate was increasing, on average 1.6% per annum, from 9.2 per mille in 2013 to 10.1 per mille in 2019. The highest mortality rates were in the Bosnia-Drina Canton, Canton 10 and Herzeg-Bosnia Canton.

These trends resulted in a negative population growth, as well as an accelerated decline of the population growth rate from -0.14 in 2013 to -1.9 per mille in 2019.

Table 2: Population growth rates in FBiH, by canton, 2013-2019, in per mille

| Year                | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Una-Sana            | -0.3 | 0.2  | -0.4 | -0.3 | -0.4 | -1.6 | -2.3 |
| Posavina            | -7   | -6.8 | -6.4 | -8.4 | -6.7 | -8.3 | -8.6 |
| Tuzla               | 1.3  | 1.3  | -0.5 | -0.3 | -1   | -1.1 | -1.7 |
| Zenica-Doboj        | 0.2  | 0.1  | -0.2 | 0    | 0.3  | 0.2  | -0.7 |
| Bosnia-Drina        | -1.9 | -2.3 | -4.2 | -2   | -1.5 | -1.5 | -5.5 |
| Central Bosnia      | -0.1 | -0.4 | -1.2 | -0.8 | -1   | -1.4 | -2   |
| Herzegovina-Neretva | -1.5 | -1.5 | -2.8 | -1.8 | -3   | -1.9 | -2.9 |
| West Herzegovina    | -1.2 | -0.5 | -1.7 | -1.9 | -1.5 | -0.8 | -1.2 |
| Sarajevo            | 1.3  | 0.8  | 0.4  | 1.1  | 1.2  | 0.6  | 0.3  |
| Canton 10           | -5   | -4.4 | -5.6 | -5.9 | -5.4 | -5.2 | -6.2 |
| FBiH                | -0.1 | -0.1 | -1   | -0.6 | -0.8 | -1   | -1.9 |

Source: adapted, Sarajevo Canton Development Planning Institute. Demographic Analysis of the Sarajevo Canton in the FBiH, 2013-2019. Sarajevo, April 2020

The indicators of vital statistics vary considerably across cantons. The Sarajevo Canton is the only canton with a positive population growth rate throughout this period, and it was +0.3 per mille in 2019. The Posavina Canton and Canton 10 (Livno) recorded the highest negative population growth rates throughout this period, reaching -8.6 and -6.2 per mille, respectively, in 2019.<sup>25</sup>

Population growth has been falling primarily due to demographic consequences of the war and postwar socioeconomic crisis. Absence of appropriate population policy measures is a sign of an antinatalist atmosphere in Bosnia and Herzegovina.<sup>26</sup> Such trends inevitably resulted in the onset of "birth dearth" in the FBiH since 2013.

These tendencies brought about a shift in the demographic model, from stationary to regressive age structure, which was conditioned by two concurrent trends: an increasing share of persons aged 65 and over and a reduction of the share of children under the age of 15. In effect, the share of the inhabitants over 65 in the total population rose from 12.9% in 2013 to 15.7% in 2019. At the same

<sup>25</sup> For more details, please see: Sarajevo Canton Development Planning Institute, Demographic Analysis of the Sarajevo Canton in the FBiH, 2013-2019, Sarajevo, April 2020

<sup>26</sup> The Vienna Institute for Demography, affiliated with the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW), announced that, in the 1990-2017 period, Bosnia and Herzegovina suffered the greatest population loss of all European states – 22 percent. With its low fertility rates, BiH is a leader even in global terms. In the publication entitled „World Fertility Patterns 2015“, Bosnia and Herzegovina was listed among ten world countries with lowest fertility rates in the 2010-2015 five-year period. Source: BiH Academy of Sciences and Arts: Studija o emigracijama Bosna i Hercegovina, Special editions, vol. CLXXXII, Sarajevo, 2019

time, the share of the young population declined significantly from 16.1% of the total population in 2013 to 15.7% in 2019.

Such indicators are typical for a regressive age structure, which corresponds to a post-transition stage in population development. Irreversible advanced aging of the BiH population has become the defining process of its development.

Age dependency ratios, which are an important tool for development planning, are also pointing to the biological structure of the population. High ratios indicate that the working-age population is encumbered by *supporting* non-working age population.<sup>27</sup>

In 2019, the youth age dependency ratio in the FBiH was 21.0, which points to the need to invest in human capital – preschool institutions, schools, healthcare, new jobs, etc. The highest youth age dependency ratio is in the Sarajevo Canton (23.2), Zenica-Doboj Canton (22.1), and West Herzegovina Canton (21.4). The old age dependency ratio, which indicates the encumbrance that the elderly population represents for the working-age population, has exhibited growth tendencies in all cantons during this period.

Table 3: Age dependency ratios in the FBiH, 2013-2019

| Age dependency ratios | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Total                 | 40.8 | 41.1 | 41.4 | 41.7 | 42.0 | 42.7 | 43.4 |
| Youth                 | 22.6 | 23.6 | 25.0 | 26.3 | 21.3 | 21.1 | 21.0 |
| Old age               | 18.1 | 17.4 | 16.4 | 15.5 | 20.7 | 21.6 | 22.5 |

These ratios are exceptionally valuable references for measuring the burden that inactive segments of the population represent for the working-age population. This burden affects economic growth, service provision and overall standard of living, including wellbeing of children. It also generates increased demand for healthcare services and pressure on pension funds.

## Migrations

The demographic snapshot is characterized by migrations, which markedly contribute to the depopulation of the entire BiH. The demographic loss is large, both as a consequence of the war in BiH, but also of emigration.

There are numerous initiatives in BiH aimed to track migration tendencies. In this connection, there are reports on both internal and external migrations, with the internal migrations being captured accurately and measured easily, while there are clear difficulties in assessing external migrations.

The latest data of the BiH Agency for Statistics show that a total of 28,521 inhabitants took part in the internal migrations in 2018 on the level of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Of this number, the number of immigrants was 19,098, which represented a decline of 2.8% relative to 2016 (16,485 changed their residences within the FBiH, 2,378 immigrated from the RS and 235 from the District of Brčko).

As regards external migrations, the BiH Ministry of Security is the competent institution to track these trends. The total number of persons who received residence permits for 32 European countries in 2018 was 54,107, and the total number was 228,230 persons in the last 10 years, although it is essential to take into account the structure of approved residence permits, as 42% of those were issued for periods up to one year, which may mean that these are temporary migrations which should be viewed differently. It should be noted that the number of returns to BiH has been

<sup>27</sup> *Total age dependency ratio*: inhabitants under 14 and over 65 years of age per 100 inhabitants aged 15-64; *youth age dependency ratio*: inhabitants under 14 years of age per 100 inhabitants aged 15-64; and *old age dependency ratio*: inhabitants over 65 per 100 inhabitants aged 15-64.

ignored, while data show that 16,355 persons returned to BiH in 2016, and 12,088 in 2017, from Germany alone.

According to the data of the BiH Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees and Ministry of Security, in charge of external migrations, the total number of emigrants born in BiH who are resident in other countries is 1,691,350 (or 1,638,113 according to the World Bank Group data).<sup>28</sup>

The emigration trend has been particularly manifest over the past 10 years, with an average rate of increase of up to 20% per year. This escalated in 2018, when the rate of increase relative to 2017 was as much as 49%.

The contemporary development of the population in the FBiH is characterized by the following trends: overall depopulation (population decrease), 'denatality' (declining birth rates), negative population growth (more deaths than births), negative balance of migrations, as well as rapid demographic aging caused by the declining fertility rates, youth emigration and increased average life expectancy. The above demographic trends are primarily a consequence of the war and postwar socioeconomic transition, which is equated with the crisis, and of the lack of population policy actions.

According to the findings of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Emigration Report, strategic guidelines, policies and changes in numerous areas are needed, since the high emigration intentions are caused by multiple factors that act in convergence to drive continued potential population outflows, and the most important of these are: socioeconomic reforms, creation of a favorable environment for retention of professionals, stimulating returns and cooperation with the diaspora, and changing the rhetoric in public discourse.

## 7. Poverty

### Concept of poverty

There are different definitions and conceptualizations of poverty, with absolute and relative poverty being used most frequently. Absolute poverty implies a condition characterized by impossibility to satisfy a given general minimum of life needs. Relative poverty is poverty in relation to an average or a minimum acceptable standard in a given society. The concept of relative poverty implies impossibility to attain an acceptable living standard which is relative (i.e., it changes) across time and space.

In accordance with the holistic approach to development, nowadays the very concept of poverty has been expanded. Poverty is multidimensional in character and its features and is manifested in various ways, including lack of income and means necessary to ensure sustainable existence, hunger and malnutrition, poor health, inaccessibility or limited access to education and other basic services, increased mortality, including mortality of disease, homelessness and inadequate dwelling conditions, unsafe environment, social discrimination and isolation. Multidimensionality of poverty is reflected in a condition marked by a long-term or permanent deprivation of resources, abilities, choices, security and power essential for appropriate living standard and fulfillment of other civil, economic, political, cultural and social rights.

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<sup>28</sup> Besides, the BiH Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees (MHRR) estimated, on the basis of available official data of the statistics agencies of host countries and diplomatic and consular representation offices of Bosnia and Herzegovina, that the total number of persons in diaspora who originated from Bosnia Herzegovina was between 2 and 2.2 million.

In the context of human development, the United Nations introduced a new approach to poverty, as well as poverty measurement indicators. Poverty is not only about income poverty, but also about poverty of human development prospects – poverty of deprivation of choice and opportunities to attain fundamental human capabilities – achieve a long, healthy, creative life and a certain standard of living, freedom, dignity, self-respect and respect for others.

The Nobel Prize winner Amartya Sen viewed poverty as absence of freedom of choice and fulfillment of human potential, development and general wellbeing. Sen interpreted poverty as capability deprivation, since the capability approach focuses on human lives, and not just on the resources people have, in the form of owning – or having use of – objects of convenience that a person may possess.<sup>29</sup>

The relationship between poverty and social inclusion is not only a matter of cause and effect, but also of the way these concepts are described and placed in a broader social context. Poverty can be seen as just one dimension of a broader concept of social exclusion. In the contemporary concept of social exclusion in the EU, poverty is actually seen as one of many forms of deprivation that together constitute the state of social exclusion.

### International documents

The duty of fighting poverty and social exclusion has been enshrined in the fundamental international documents, such as the Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals, as well as in the documents that arise from the European foundations of solidarity and welfare state, such as the European Social Charter, which cites „the right to protection from poverty and social exclusion“ as one of the fundamental civic rights. The Europe 2020 Strategy, adopted in 2010, envisaged an objective in the area of fighting poverty, while the initiative „European Platform for Fighting Poverty“ was adopted within the social dimension of the Strategy.

The new development Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals are a vision of world transformation focused on people and on rights-based duties to end poverty and protect the Planet. The first Sustainable Development Goal is: Eradicate poverty everywhere and in all forms. But the SDGs encompass the issues of root causes of poverty and inequality, such as poor rule of law, corruption and traditions and norms that maintain discrimination on the basis either of gender, cultural identity, or social status. In essence, the SDGs focus on people „left behind“ and on their inclusion. No one is left behind or out, since „governments, international organizations, the business sector and other non-state actors and individuals must contribute to the implementation of the goals“.

The European Union has a considerable global role in defining the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals. Together with its Member States, it undertook to take the lead in the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals until 2030 and on achievement of the SDGs. After the completion of the EU Strategy 2020, the EU turned to the new planning cycle, which will represent the path towards a sustainable EU 2030 and towards implementation of the SDGs on the European level.

Together with 192 United Nations Member States, Bosnia and Herzegovina undertook to implement the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. Development of the Sustainable Development Goals Framework in BiH, through which the government on all levels and the society in BiH strive to contribute to the implementation of the SDGs represents the first step in the implementation of the Agenda 2030. The Sustainable Development Goals Framework in BiH defines broader development pathways that should contribute to creation of a better society and of a future in which no one will

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<sup>29</sup> A. Sen (2017), „Ideja pravednosti, Znanje, d.o.o., Zagreb, p. 243

be excluded and in which people, prosperity, peace, partnership and caring for the planet Earth are at the core of a better and shared future.

## Measuring poverty

### Absolute, relative and multidimensional poverty

In actual practice, there is no single measure to determine the poverty line and several different concepts and indicators are used, with absolute and relative poverty line being used most frequently.

The absolute poverty line represents a value fixed in time and space, and the most frequently used absolute poverty line is the one based on food consumption. It permits monitoring over time, international comparisons and tracking of the progress achieved in reducing the share of the population below the poverty line.

The relative poverty line defines poverty in comparison with a „typical“ national living standard, it increases with the rise of average costs. A relative poverty line has a major shortcoming: it does not permit tracking of changes over time; relative poverty assessments over time cause confusion when assessing shifts in inequality and poverty.

If the fundamental objective of drawing a poverty line is to create policies that will aim to reduce and eliminate poverty, choosing the absolute poverty line is recommended. It guarantees consistency of comparison in the sense that two individuals with the same level of well-being will be treated in the same way. For BiH, it also makes sense to publish relative poverty indicators, as an addition to the absolute ones, to permit comparability with the reporting in the EU and candidate countries, which track relative poverty lines.

Since 2010, the UNDP has introduced a new Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) which identifies multiple deprivation of households in key dimensions of human development – in the area of education, healthcare and living standard. All data required to calculate the MPI are obtained from the same study. Ten indicators are used in calculating the MPI, with the focus on privation, deprivation across the selected dimensions.

Table 4: MPI tracking indicators

| Dimension       | Indikators                                                                       |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Education       | years of schooling, enrollment                                                   |
| Health          | nutrition, child mortality                                                       |
| Living standard | electricity, sanitation conditions, potable water, housing, cooking fuel, assets |

Source: adapted, HDR 2010, p. 215.

The latest report on global multidimensional poverty was published in 2020 and dedicated to achievement of the SDGs.<sup>30</sup>

### Global snapshot and the EU

The world of today has evidently recorded massive progress in all fields of human efforts and activities. The number of people on the Planet increased by over 1.5 billion in the last decade. Economic progress, measured by the rise of the global GDP, nearly doubled in the last decade alone,

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<sup>30</sup> United Nations Development Programme and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative: Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2020: Charting pathways out of multidimensional poverty: Achieving the SDGs, 2020. Available at: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/2020-MPI>

from 67.75 trillion in 2009 to 130.1 trillion PPP \$ (constant 2017 international US\$) in 2019. The average GDP/pc rose from 11,080 (2009) to 16,944 PPP \$ (constant 2017 international US\$) (2019).

Human development achieved evident progress. The Human Development Index increased from 0.697 in 2000 to 0.731 in 2018. In this period alone, life expectancy at birth increased by more than five years (from 67.5 years in 2000 to 72.6 years in 2018). Infant and child mortality decreased, many more people can read and write, people are better educated and have more opportunities.

But, underneath the apparent progress, there is a far more complex vision of continuing poverty in the world, unequal distribution of world economic product and huge disparities and gaps in development between countries. According to the latest poverty data for 2015, more than 734 million people (10%) on Earth subsisted with less than 1.9 US\$ (2011 PPP) per day, and it was 16% in 2010. This is living in extreme poverty. If the poverty line is 3.2 US\$, 9.3% of people on the Planet lived below that line in 2015. At the same time, 49.2% of people live with less than 5.5 US\$ per day.

The latest study of multidimensional poverty<sup>31</sup> offers a snapshot of global trends in multidimensional poverty, covering 5 billion people in developing countries. In 107 developing countries, 1.3 billion people, or 22%, live in multidimensional poverty. Children exhibit higher rates of multidimensional poverty: half of multidimensionally poor (644 million) are children under 18. One in three children is poor, relative to one in six adults. Around 84.3% of multidimensionally poor live in Sub-Saharan Africa (558 million) and South Asia (530 million). Each multidimensionally poor person is in a state of deprivation according to multiple indicators. For instance, 803 million of multidimensionally poor live in households in which someone is malnourished, 476 million have a child out of school, 1.2 billion have no access to clean cooking fuel, 687 million have no electricity, while 1.03 billion have poor dwelling conditions.

Eurostat monitors two key indicators of poverty and social exclusion. The former relates to severely materially deprived people<sup>32</sup>, and the latter to people who are at risk of poverty and social exclusion<sup>33</sup>. Both of the above indicators track progress towards achievement of SDG 1.

In 2018, there were nearly 30 million, or 5.9%, of severely materially deprived people in EU 28. This number was significantly lower relative to the situation in 2010, when it had been 41.7 million, or 8.4%. The countries with the highest number of severely materially deprived people are Bulgaria (20.9%), Romania (16.8%) and Greece (16.7%).

More than 109.8 million people in EU 28, or 21.8% of the EU population, were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2018. This represents a decrease relative to 2010, when more than 117.9 million people, or 24.3%, of the population, were at risk of poverty or social exclusion. The countries with the highest risk of poverty and social exclusion are: Bulgaria (32.8%), Romania (32.5%) and Greece (31.8%). Let us not forget that, in absolute terms, the leaders are Italy, with more than 16 million, Germany with over 15 million, and the United Kingdom with more than 15 million people at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

## Bosnia and Herzegovina

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<sup>31</sup> Ibidem, <http://hdr.undp.org/en/2020-MPI>

<sup>32</sup> This indicator measures the share of severely materially deprived people whose living conditions are severely limited due to resource shortage. They experience at least four of the following nine types of deprivation: they cannot afford i) to pay rent or utility bills, ii) maintain adequate warmth in their home, iii) face unexpected expenditures, iv) eat meat, fish or protein equivalent every other day, v) weekly rest outside the home, vi) an automobile, vii) washing machine, viii) color TV, or ix) phone. This indicator is part of the Multidimensional Poverty Index.

<sup>33</sup> This indicator corresponds to the sum of persons who are: at risk of poverty after social transfers, severely materially deprived or live in households with a very low labor intensity. Such persons are counted only once, even if they affected by more than one of these phenomena.

In international comparisons, the poverty data for Bosnia and Herzegovina is available in the World Bank Group's database<sup>34</sup>. In 2015, 0.1% of the population in Bosnia and Herzegovina lived below the level of 1.9 US\$ per day, which is taken as the line of absolute poverty for developing countries, and 4% were below 5.5 US\$. Regarding multidimensional poverty, for BiH there are only data for 2006 and 2011/2012, as it was at these times that the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) were conducted.

With a MPI of 0.008, Bosnia and Herzegovina is in the group of countries with lower MPIs, but this index increased relative to 2006, when it was 0.003. Multiple deprivation affects 2.2%, or 79,000 inhabitants in BiH. This is an increase relative to 2006 (then it was 0.8% or 30,000 inhabitants). An average deprivation intensity in BiH is 37.9% and is slightly higher than in 2006 (37.2%). According to this study, 4.3% of the population in BiH are vulnerable to multiple poverty.

In the structure of the MPI, healthcare accounts for the largest share (79.7%), while the living standard and education account for 13.2% and 7.2%, respectively. This is very alarming, in the light of the vast threat to the health of the people during the pandemic, not only because of the risk of contracting COVID-19, but because of a series of other complex and grave health issues. It is worth comparing the coverage of the population affected by multidimensional poverty and the traditional income-based poverty measurements.

Table 5. Comparative poverty measurement, 2011/2012

| Measurement method               | Population |         |
|----------------------------------|------------|---------|
|                                  | %          | Number  |
| Rate of multiple poverty MPI (H) | 2.2        | 79,000  |
| Poverty line 1.25 US\$ per day   | 0.1        | 3,590   |
| Poverty line 3.2 US\$ per day    | 0.8        | 28,720  |
| National poverty line            | 16.9       | 606,000 |

Source: Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI): Global MPI Country Briefing 2019: Bosnia and Herzegovina (Europe and Central Asia), September 2019. Population estimates by the author.

According to the estimates<sup>35</sup>, in 2016 in BiH there were 28% of the population below the absolute poverty line, 28% in the FBiH and 30% in the RS. This means that around 900,000 people in BiH live below the absolute poverty line, and around 620,000 in the FBiH. UN studies have shown that one in six inhabitants of BiH subsist on 3-5 BAM per day (90-150 BAM per month), i.e., 17% of the population is in extreme poverty, far below the absolute poverty line, while 700,000 people are at the edge of poverty<sup>36</sup>. Research into workers' poverty emphasizes that one in four employed workers in BiH could not bring their four-member families over the consumption threshold of 600 BAM per month, which held them below the absolute poverty line, so it is estimated that 25% of employed workers are in poverty<sup>37</sup>.

### Profile of absolute poverty in the FBiH

The profiles of absolute poverty in BiH and FBiH were created on the basis of the data from the Extended Household Budget Survey conducted in BiH in 2015 (2015 EHBS) as part of Component Three of the „Building a Social Inclusion Advocacy Platform in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Will You Stop and Listen!“

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty>

<sup>35</sup> SIF in BiH/IBHI: „Towards the European Union – Key Social Inclusion Issues in BiH“, March 2019, p. 22

<sup>36</sup> See Ž. Papić, „Poverty and Workers' Poverty in BiH“, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, p. 4

<sup>37</sup> Ž. Papić, ibidem, p. 7

The 2015 absolute poverty line for BiH was 270 BAM per household member, and it was calculated by adjusting the 2007 absolute poverty line, which was 238 BAM, for the 2007-2015 inflation, using the data on the movement of the consumer price index in BiH.

Absolute poor persons are those persons who are unable to meet the minimum of their non-food consumption needs (and they should be distinguished from persons in extreme poverty, who, by definition, are unable to meet the minimum of their food consumption needs).

The 2015 EHBS estimated that, at the time it was conducted, there were 2,995,603 and 1,943,513 inhabitants in BiH and FBiH, respectively.<sup>38</sup> In 2015, there were 687 thousand of absolute poor in BiH, which means that around 23% of the population, or nearly one in four inhabitants, were absolutely poor. Absolute poverty is equally distributed across the entities and the DB.

In 2015, there were 447 thousand of absolute poor in the FBiH, which means that some 23% of the population, or around one in four inhabitants were absolutely poor. The greatest share of the poor in BiH is in the FBiH, which is home to 65% of absolute poor persons from BiH, or, in other words, two out of three absolutely poor persons from BiH live in the FBiH.

### Age structure of the absolute poor

Table 6: Age structure of population categories, according to the 2015 EHBS, %

| Structure                                                                                                           |      | 0-14 | 15-24 | 25-64 | 65+ | Total |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|-------|-------|-----|-------|
| Share of population age groups in BiH and FBiH relative to the total population                                     | FBiH | 15   | 14    | 55    | 16  | 100   |
|                                                                                                                     | BiH  | 14   | 14    | 55    | 18  | 100   |
| Share of absolutely poor persons in BiH and FBiH, by age group                                                      | FBiH | 34   | 24    | 21    | 18  | 23    |
|                                                                                                                     | BiH  | 34   | 24    | 22    | 17  | 23    |
| Share of absolutely poor persons in BiH and FBiH to the total population of absolutely poor persons in BiH and FBiH | FBiH | 22   | 15    | 51    | 12  | 100*  |
|                                                                                                                     | BiH  | 20   | 14    | 52    | 13  | 100** |

\* 100% corresponds to all absolutely poor persons in FBiH, whose number is estimated at 447 thousand.

\*\* 100% corresponds to all absolutely poor persons in BiH, whose number is estimated at 687 thousand.

More than half, or 55% of all inhabitants of the FBiH are in the 26-64 age bracket. Persons aged 65 years and children aged 14 and younger account for 16% and 15% of the FBiH population, respectively. The age structure in the FBiH does not deviate from the age structure of BiH.

On the FBiH level, children 0-14 years of age are the poorest group, with 34%, or one in three children, in poverty. Approximately one of five poor persons in the FBiH, or 22% of the poor, are children 0-14 years of age.

The 25-64 year olds account for the greatest share in the number of the poor in the FBiH, with 51% or a half of all poor in the FBiH. Next are children aged 14 years or under, who make up 22%, or nearly one in four poor persons in the FBiH, while persons 65 years old and older constitute 12%, or nearly one in eight absolutely poor persons in the FBiH.

### Single person elderly households

In the FBiH, 4% of the population live in single person elderly households.

Table 7: Structure of single person elderly households, according to the 2015 EHBS, %

| Structure                                    |      | Single person elderly households | Total |
|----------------------------------------------|------|----------------------------------|-------|
| Share of single person elderly households in | FBiH | 4                                | 100   |

<sup>38</sup> This data differs from the official 2013 Census data.

|                                                                                                                                        |      |   |       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|---|-------|
| BiH and FBiH in total population                                                                                                       | BiH  | 5 | 100   |
| Share of absolutely poor persons in BiH and FBiH living in single person elderly households                                            | FBiH | 6 | 23    |
|                                                                                                                                        | BiH  | 8 | 23    |
| Share of absolutely poor persons living in single person elderly households in total population of the absolutely poor in BiH and FBiH | FBiH | 1 | 100*  |
|                                                                                                                                        | BiH  | 2 | 100** |

\* 100% corresponds to all absolutely poor persons in FBiH, whose number is estimated at 447 thousand.

\*\* 100% corresponds to all absolutely poor persons in BiH, whose number is estimated at 687 thousand.

At the level of the FBiH, 6% or nearly one in 15 persons who are 65 or older and who live alone in their own households, are absolutely poor. The share of absolutely poor persons living in one-person single households in the total population of the absolutely poor in the FBiH is 1%.

### Single parent households

Less than 1% of the total FBiH population live in single-parent households.

Table 8: Structure of the population in single-parent households in BiH and FBiH, according to the 2015 EHBS, %

| Structure                                                                                                                  |      | Single-parent households | Total |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|--------------------------|-------|
| Share of the population living in single-parent households in BiH and FBiH in total population                             | FBiH | <1                       | 100   |
|                                                                                                                            | BiH  | <1                       | 100   |
| Share of absolutely poor in BiH and FBiH in single-parent households                                                       | FBiH | 31                       | 23    |
|                                                                                                                            | BiH  | 26                       | 23    |
| Share of absolutely poor living in single-parent households in BiH and FBiH in the total population of the absolutely poor | FBiH | 1                        | 100*  |
|                                                                                                                            | BiH  | <1                       | 100** |

\* 100% corresponds to all absolutely poor persons in FBiH, whose number is estimated at 447 thousand.

\*\* 100% corresponds to all absolutely poor persons in BiH, whose number is estimated at 687 thousand.

At the level of the FBiH, 31% of persons or nearly one person in three, who live in single-parent households are in absolute poverty. Approximately 1% of all absolutely poor persons in the FBiH live in single-parent households.

### Households with 5 or more members

One in four inhabitants, or around 28% of the population in FBiH lives in households with 5 or more members.

Table 9: Structure of the population in households with 5 or more members in BiH and FBiH, according to the 2015 EHBS, %

| Structure                                                                                                                                    |      | Households with 5 or more members | Total |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Share of the population in households with 5 or more members in total population                                                             | FBiH | 28                                | 100   |
|                                                                                                                                              | BiH  | 29                                | 100   |
| Share of absolutely poor persons in households with 5 or more members in BiH and FBiH                                                        | FBiH | 38                                | 23    |
|                                                                                                                                              | BiH  | 39                                | 23    |
| Share of absolutely poor persons in households with 5 or more inhabitants in the total population of absolutely poor persons in BiH and FBiH | FBiH | 46                                | 100*  |
|                                                                                                                                              | BiH  | 48                                | 100** |

\* 100% corresponds to all absolutely poor persons in FBiH, whose number is estimated at 447 thousand.

\*\* 100% corresponds to all absolutely poor persons in BiH, whose number is estimated at 687 thousand.

At the level of the FBiH, 38%, or two out of five persons living in households with 5 or more members are absolutely poor. Absolutely poor persons living in households with 5 or more members account for 46%, or nearly half of all absolutely poor persons in the FBiH.

## Young unemployed persons

Young unemployed persons (15-24 years old) constitute 4% or one in 25 persons in the FBiH.

Table 10: Structure of young unemployed persons in BiH and FBiH, according to the 2015 EHBS data, %

| Structure                                                                                                            |      | Young unemployed persons | Total |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|--------------------------|-------|
| Percent share of young unemployed persons in total population in BiH i FBiH                                          | FBiH | 4                        | 100   |
|                                                                                                                      | BiH  | 3                        | 100   |
| Percent share of absolutely poor young unemployed persons in BiH and FBiH                                            | FBiH | 34                       | 23    |
|                                                                                                                      | BiH  | 33                       | 23    |
| Percent share of absolutely poor unemployed persons in the total population of absolutely poor persons in BiH i FBiH | FBiH | 5                        | 100%* |
|                                                                                                                      | BiH  | 5                        | 100** |

\* 100% corresponds to all absolutely poor persons in FBiH, whose number is estimated 447 thousand.

\*\* 100% corresponds to all absolutely poor persons in BiH, whose number is estimated 687 thousand.

Absolutely poor young persons constitute 5% of all poor persons in FBiH.

## Educational structure of the absolutely poor

Table 11: Percent share of the population (15 years old and over) in BiH and FBiH by completed level of education in the total population in BiH and FBiH, according to the 2015 EHBS data, %

|      | No education | Incomplete elementary education (eight-year elementary) | Incomplete elementary education (nine-year elementary) | Elementary school | Secondary school | Post-secondary specialization | Junior college | University. academia | Master programs | Doctorate | Total – persons 15 years old and over |
|------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| FBiH | 5            | 4                                                       | 3                                                      | 19                | 44               | 0                             | 2              | 6                    | <1              | <1        | 85                                    |
| BiH  | 5            | 5                                                       | 3                                                      | 19                | 44               | 0                             | 2              | 6                    | <1              | <1        | 86                                    |

In the FBiH, secondary school is the highest completed level of education for nearly one in two persons. or 44% of the population, while some 6%. or approximately one in 16 inhabitants of the FBiH have university degrees as the highest level of educational attainment.

Table 12: Absolutely poor persons in BiH and FBiH. 15 years old and over. by highest completed level of education, according to the 2015 EHBS data, %

|      | No education | Incomplete elementary education (eight-year elementary) | Incomplete elementary education (nine-year elementary) | Elementary school | Secondary school | Post-secondary specialization | Junior college | University. academia | Master programs | Doctorate | Total – persons 15 years old and over |
|------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| FBiH | 32           | 23                                                      | 25                                                     | 29                | 19               | (11)                          | 7              | 7                    | 2               | (*)       | 23                                    |
| BiH  | 32           | 22                                                      | 25                                                     | 28                | 20               | 11                            | 9              | 7                    | 2               | (*)       | 23                                    |

() – Data based on 25-49 unweighted cases

(\*) – Data based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases

On the level of the FBiH, persons without education are most numerous among the absolutely poor, with 32%, or one in three persons, without education being in absolute poverty.

Table 13: Percent share of absolutely poor aged 15 or over by the highest level of completed education, according to the 2015 EHBS data, %

|      | No education | Incomplete elementary education (eight-year elementary) | Incomplete elementary education (nine-year elementary) | Elementary school | Secondary school | Post-secondary specialization | Junior college | University. academia | Master programs | Doctorate | Total – persons 15 years old and over |
|------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| FBiH | 7            | 4                                                       | 3                                                      | 25                | 37               | 0                             | 1              | 2                    | 0               | 0         | 100                                   |
| BiH  | 7            | 5                                                       | 3                                                      | 23                | 38               | 0                             | 1              | 2                    | 0               | 00        | 100                                   |

\* 100% corresponds to all absolutely poor persons in FBiH, whose number is estimated at 447 thousand.

\*\* 100% corresponds to all absolutely poor persons in BiH, whose number is estimated at 687 thousand.

Persons with completed secondary education account for 37% - the highest portion of all poor persons in the FBiH.

### Absolutely poor by type of activity

Table 14: Percent share of the population (15 year old and over in BiH and FBiH by employment status in the total population in BiH and FBiH, according to the 2015 EHBS data,%

|      | Employed full-time | Employed less than full time | Unemployed, formerly employed | Unemployed, looking for first job | Homemaker | University/ secondary school student | Unable to work | Pensioner (old-age and early) | Other | Total – persons 15 years old and over |
|------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|
| FBiH | 25                 | 4                            | 5                             | 7                                 | 18        | 9                                    | 2              | 15                            | 1     | 85                                    |
| BiH  | 26                 | 3                            | 5                             | 7                                 | 17        | 9                                    | 3              | 16                            | 1     | 86                                    |

Employed persons are 25% or one in four persons in the FBiH.

Table 15: Absolutely poor persons 15 years old and over in BiH and FBiH, by employment status, according to the 2015 EHBS, %

|      | Employed full-time | Employed less than full time | Unemployed, formerly employed | Unemployed, looking for first job | Homemaker | University/ secondary school student | Unable to work | Pensioner (old-age and early) | Other | Total – persons 15 years old and over |
|------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|
| FBiH | 16                 | 31                           | 32                            | 33                                | 24        | 18                                   | 29             | 16                            | 33    | 23                                    |
| BiH  | 17                 | 31                           | 29                            | 32                                | 24        | 19                                   | 30             | 15                            | 29    | 23                                    |

On the level of the FBiH, unemployed persons seeking work for the first time are poorest. Nearly one in three persons, or 29%, of persons unable to work in the FBiH are absolutely poor.

Table 16: Absolutely poor persons 15 years old and over in BiH and FBiH, by employment status, according to the 2015 EHBS data, u %

|      | Employed full-time | Employed less than full time | Unemployed, formerly employed | Unemployed, looking for first job | Homemaker | University/ secondary school student | Unable to work | Pensioner (old-age and early) | Other | Total – persons 15 years old and over |
|------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|
| FBiH | 17                 | 5                            | 7                             | 10                                | 18        | 7                                    | 3              | 11                            | 1     | 100                                   |
| BiH  | 19                 | 4                            | 7                             | 10                                | 17        | 7                                    | 3              | 11                            | 1     | 100                                   |

\* 100% corresponds to all absolutely poor persons in FBiH, whose number is estimated at 447 thousand.

\*\* 100% corresponds to all absolutely poor persons in BiH, whose number is estimated at 687 thousand.

Homemakers are the most widespread category of the absolutely poor, as they constitute 18%, or nearly one in five absolutely poor persons.

#### Absolute poverty in FBiH. 2011-2015

Table 17: Indicators of absolute poverty in FBiH, 2011-2015

|                               | 2011      | 2015      |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Total persons                 | 2.043.587 | 1.943.513 |
| Poor persons                  | 464.418   | 446.927   |
| Percent share of poor persons | 22.7%     | 23.0%     |
| Poverty gap                   | 0.06      | 0.07      |
| Squared poverty gap           | 0.03      | 0.03      |
| Poverty deficit               | 0.28      | 0.28      |

In the 2011-2015 period, there were no changes in the indicators of absolute poverty in the FBiH. The absolute poverty rate in the FBiH has remained unchanged at 23%. i.e., nearly one in four persons in the FBiH are absolutely poor.

Table 18: Absolute poverty rate by gender of the household head, 2011-2015

|       | 2011 | 2015 |
|-------|------|------|
| Total | 23%  | 23%  |
| Men   | 24%  | 24%  |
| Women | 18%  | 20%  |

The absolute poverty rate rose slightly in the households headed by women, for two percentage points – from 18% to 20%.

Table 19: Absolute poverty rates by age group of household members in FBiH, 2011-2015

| Age group   | 2011 | 2015 |
|-------------|------|------|
| 0-5         | 32%  | 38%  |
| 6-17        | 29%  | 31%  |
| 18-24       | 22%  | 22%  |
| 25-44       | 24%  | 25%  |
| 45-64       | 18%  | 18%  |
| 65 and over | 20%  | 18%  |
| Total       | 23%  | 23%  |

Absolute poverty of children 0-5 years old increased by 6 percentage points, from 32 to 38%.

Table 20: Absolute poverty rated by the number of children in a household in the FBiH, 2011-2015

|                        | 2011 | 2015 |
|------------------------|------|------|
| On children            | 13%  | 14%  |
| One child              | 21%  | 25%  |
| Two children           | 25%  | 35%  |
| Three or more children | 33%  | 43%  |
| Total                  | 23%  | 23%  |

Absolute poverty of households with two children increased by 10 percentage point, from 25% to 35%.

Table 21: Absolute poverty rates by household size in the FBiH, 2011-2015

|  | 2011 | 2015 |
|--|------|------|
|--|------|------|

|               |     |     |
|---------------|-----|-----|
| One           | 8%  | 5%  |
| Two           | 12% | 12% |
| Three         | 16% | 18% |
| Four          | 23% | 23% |
| Five and more | 35% | 38% |
| Total         | 23% | 23% |

Absolute poverty of households with five or more members increased by 3 percentage points, from 35% to 38%.

Table 22: Absolute poverty rates by the current activity status of household head, in the FBiH, 2011-2015

|                  | 2011 | 2015 |
|------------------|------|------|
| Employed         | 20%  | 21%  |
| Unemployed       | 37%  | 41%  |
| Retired          | 22%  | 21%  |
| Unable to work   | 48%  | 37%  |
| Homemaker        | 23%  | 20%  |
| Other (inactive) | 40%  | 27%  |
| Total            | 23%  | 23%  |

Absolute poverty of persons living in households whose head is unable to work decreased by 11 percentage points, from 48% to 37%.

Table 23: Absolute poverty rates by level of education of household head, 2011-2015

|                      | 2011 | 2015 |
|----------------------|------|------|
| No education         | 52%  | 32%  |
| Elementary education | 35%  | 37%  |
| Secondary education  | 19%  | 20%  |
| Higher education     | 5%   | 7%   |
| Total                | 23%  | 23%  |

Absolute poverty of persons living in households in which household head has no education decreased by 20 percentage points from 52% to 32%.

- In 2015, in the FBiH there were 447 thousand of absolutely poor persons, i.e., around 23% of the population or one in four inhabitants were absolutely poor. The greatest share of the poor in BiH is in the FBiH, where 65% of the absolute poor in BiH reside, or, on other words, two in three absolutely poor persons live in the FBiH.
- More than half, or 55% of all inhabitants of the FBiH are 25-64 years old. Persons 65 years old and over constitute 16% and persons 14 years old and under constitute 15% of the FBiH population.
- On the level of the FBiH, children 0-14 years old are the poorest, with 34% or one in three in poverty. Nearly one in five poor persons in the FBiH, or 22% of the poor, are children 0-14 years old.
- People 25-64 years old make up the greatest share of poor persons in the FBiH, 51% or half of all the poor in this entity. Children 14 years old or under are next, as they account for 22%, or nearly one in four poor persons in the FBiH. Persons 65 years old and over make up 12%, or nearly one in eight absolutely poor persons in the FBiH.
- On the level of the FBiH, among persons 65 years old and over and living alone in their own household, 6%, or nearly one person in 15, are absolutely poor.
- On the level of the FBiH, 31% of the persons living in single-parent households, i.e., nearly one persons in three, are absolutely poor.
- Absolutely poor persons living in single-parent households make up 46%, or nearly half of all absolutely poor persons in the FBiH.
- Young (15-24 years old) unemployed persons are 4%, or one in 25 persons in the FBiH. On the level of the FBiH, 34% or one in three young unemployed persons are absolutely poor.
- On the level of the FBiH, persons without education are the poorest, with 32%, or one in three persons that did not attend school, are in absolute poverty.
- Persons with completed secondary education account for 37% - the highest portion of all poor persons in the FBiH.
- On the level of the FBiH, unemployed persons seeking work for the first time are poorest. Nearly one in three persons, or 29%, of persons unable to work in the FBiH are absolutely poor.

Relative to 2011, in 2015 there were no changes in the rate of absolute poverty in the FBiH. But there were shifts in the structure, with absolute poverty increasing:

- in children 0-5 years old by 6 percentage points from 32% to 38%.
- in two-children households by 10 percentage points, from 25% to 35%.

## 8. Children

Children are key to the future of the country. Numerous situational analyses conducted by UNICEF and the World Vision International, found that children are an investment and this is one of the key messages in advocating for securing stable resources to fulfill each child's right to equal opportunities.

According to the 2013 Census, there were 388,294 children 0-17 years of age in the FBiH, which constituted around 17.5% of the total population, and 356,948 children up to the age of 14. According to some estimates, the number of children in 2019 was 320,184 (0-14 years)<sup>39</sup>, or around 37,000 fewer children than in 2013 (which represents an average drop at the rate of -1.8%).

<sup>39</sup> Official statistical population estimates contain population data divided into three age groups, 0-14, 15-64 and over 65 years of age, which precludes more detailed analysis and comparison with the Census data

The continuing decline of the number of children in the territory of the FBiH, as well as in all of BiH, leads to depopulation. The youth age dependency ratio, which was 21.0 per mille in 2019, points to the need to invest in human capital – preschool institutions, schools, healthcare, new jobs.

#### Healthcare

Health is of crucial importance for the overall development of a child. According to the Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (MODA) conducted by UNICEF in 2016, 24.75% of children under 5 years of age are deprived of their right to health. More than 65.7% of children are deprived in the area of development, while nearly 16 (15.9) percent of children under 5 years of age are deprived in the domain of nutrition. According to the 2011 Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS), 1.5% of children under 5 years of age are malnourished.

Despite a temporary improvement, indicators of healthcare in the FBiH are deteriorating. The infant mortality rate, as the most important indicator of a population's health, rose from 7.3 per mille in 2013 to 9.3 permille in 2019. The mortality rate for children under 5 years of age has registered a slight decline, from 9.4 per mille in 2015 to 8.6 per mille in 2019. The 2011-2012 MICS data estimate that the infant mortality rate among Roma children in BiH is 24% to 1,000 live births and the mortality rate for children under 5 years of age to 27% to 1,000 live births.

#### Education

Education plays a significant role in the process of social inclusion. Education prepares individuals for entry into the labor market, which permits financial, i.e., economic independence. That is a way to preclude emergence of poverty, while at the same time increasing the quality of life. UNESCO defined inclusive education as the duty of schools to provide education for all children, through detection and understanding of different needs on the individual level, particularly for those with developmental problems or who come from vulnerable groups. UNESCO has been promoting the notion of inclusive education as a concept which is directly linked with the improvement of the education system as a whole: Inclusion is a process of addressing and reacting to the variety of needs of all students through increase participation in learning, cultures and communities and through reducing exclusion in and from education. Inclusion incorporates modifications and changes of the contents, approaches, structures and strategies, with a common vision that extends to all children of a given age and with the conviction that the regular education system is responsible for educating all children.

In the school year 2019/2020, there was a total of 208 preschool institutions in the FBiH, with 16,765 children, including 312 children with special needs. Relative to the situation in 2013/2014, both the number of preschool institutions (from 156 to 208) and the coverage of children by preschool education (from 11,808 to 16,765 in 2019/2020) increased.

Enrollment in elementary schools is falling significantly. In the school year 2019/2020, 179,781 students enrolled in 1,063 elementary schools, which was more than 19,000 children, or some 10%, fewer relative to the number of students enrolled in the school year 2013/2014. Note that in the school year 2019/2020 2,639 students with special needs participated in regular classes, while 490 students with special needs attended 21 specialized school in the FBiH in 126 classes (in the school year 2013/2014 there were 27 schools for children with special needs, 107 classes, attended by 512 children with special needs).

As for enrollment in secondary schools, in the school year 2019/2020 72,892 students enrolled in 213 secondary schools, or 33,164 students, or 31.3%, fewer than in the school 2013/2014. In 2019/2020, eleven special secondary schools were attended by 230 students with special needs,

organized in 50 classes. This was 96 fewer children in comparison with the school year 2013/2014, when 326 students in 56 classes enrolled. The above indicators clearly reveal that the trend of reduced enrollment of students in elementary and secondary schools is pronounced.

In the context of social exclusion, data on early school-leaving is also significant. In the school year 2019/2020 alone, 177 children dropped out of elementary education. Children are most likely to drop out when they lack interest in education or motivation to study, but 133 children left school for social and economic reasons (64%). In the same school year, 401 children dropped out of secondary education, among whom 47 (11.7%) for economic and social reasons.

Budgetary support for families that cannot cover the costs of their children's education are insignificant. Children with developmental difficulties, children without parental protection and Roma children are particularly at risk of leaving school.

The effect of social inclusion on the entire society matters and a fully inclusive education needs to be one of key directions of action. This means that children with developmental difficulties are not separated into special schools, but that they acquire their education together with their peers. This practice is beneficial both for the children with difficulties and for those without, as it teaches them to be more compassionate and open and gives them opportunities to see that other children also make efforts, learn and gain knowledge. Children with developmental difficulties need comprehensive and flexible support to equally participate with other children. In the FBiH, considerable progress was achieved on the level of regulatory framework, but children with difficulties still daily face considerable obstacles to access to available and quality services. Inclusion and strong cooperation of all relevant factors to give all children in the FBiH, particularly the most vulnerable, a fair chance, recognition and encouragement to participate on the basis of their invaluable abilities should be a common mission of every person in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## Poverty and children

Children are among the most vulnerable categories of the population, with consistently higher poverty rates relative to the general population (in 2015, 38% relative to 32% for the general population).

The situation is particularly difficult for children with difficulties, Roma children and children in poor communities. UNICEF's study on multidimensional poverty<sup>40</sup> found that more than half of children living in BiH are exposed to multiple dimensions of poverty. Furthermore, 74% of children 5-15 years old face deprivation in at least one dimension, with 23% in three or more dimensions. One-third of children 0-4 years old face deprivation in four or more dimensions.<sup>41</sup> Younger children (0-4 year olds) are mostly deprived of nutrition (71.8%) and child development (65.7%).

Roma children and children with some form of disability are in a state of chronic multidimensional poverty, which is a result of generational social exclusion, discrimination and hereditary family poverty. Regarding Roma children, 80% are estimated to live in poverty, and that 6.5% of children 2-9 years old have some form of disability, and such children are most marginalized and excluded in our society.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>40</sup> Besides incomes, the assessment takes into account dwelling conditions, healthcare, education, etc. For more detailed indicators and dimensions of deprivation, see: UNICEF: National Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (N-MODA) Child Poverty and Deprivation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, WP-2015-02, April 2015, p. 11

<sup>41</sup> According to: UNICEF, Situational Analysis of the Situation of Children in Bosnia and Herzegovina, March 2020.

<sup>42</sup> FSI in BiH/IBHI: Towards the European Union – Recommendations for Advancement of Social Inclusion in BiH, p. 19

The poverty profile in the FBiH is very similar to the one for the state level in terms of the size and types of households. For the absolute poverty line, in terms of the number of children and size of households, the poverty rate is the highest for households with three or more children (43%).

Children living in poverty are most often excluded from preschool and school education and healthcare programs, and they also face malnutrition problems.

The data on social protection beneficiaries are another important indicator of poverty. In 2019, there were a total of 337,003 social protection beneficiaries, among whom 77,732 (or 23.1%) were minors. The number of minor beneficiaries was higher by 3,172 (4.3%) relative to 2013. Of their number, 31,736 (40.8%) of beneficiaries are vulnerable because of their family situation, and children in the Central Bosnia (8,454), Tuzla (6,795), and Zenica-Doboj (6,172) cantons are most affected. The category of beneficiaries vulnerable because of their family situation includes 22,358 children without sufficient incomes.

The total number of social protection beneficiaries includes 27,690 children in the state of various social needs, including 191 children affected by natural disasters. In 2014 alone, during the great flooding, 286 children were affected, among them 150 in the Posavina Canton and 78 in Zenica-Doboj Canton.

Social protection benefits are insufficient to cover the minimum needed to reach the poverty line. Data indicated that the total social benefits account for around 4% of GDP, with some three-quarters targeted at the veterans' population and their families. Real transfers to families with children, persons with non-war-related disabilities, and other vulnerable categories in BiH range between 1% and 1.2% and are lowest in the region.

In the FBiH, the child protection system is completely decentralized and includes the BiH Human Rights Ombudsmen's Institution and the FBiH Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and social and child protection institutions at the FBiH level, with cantonal ministries of labor and cantonal social and child protection institutions, homes for children without parental care, centers for social work, social and child protection services, safe houses, daycare centers, private centers and non-governmental organizations. Overall, there are two cantonal social protection centers and 22 social work and child protection departments in the FBiH.

## Protection of families with children

Protection of families with children on the FBiH level is regulated within the social protection system by the Law on Foundations of Social Protection, Protection of Civilian Victims of War and Protection of Families with Children („FBiH Official Gazette“ no. 36/99, 59/04, 39/06, 14/09, 45/16, and 40/18), hereinafter: the Federation law.<sup>43</sup> Funding of social protection institutions and activities is a cantonal competence, and the cantons adopt their own laws and subordinate regulations in accordance with the FBiH regulations. The Law stipulates that protection of families with children aims to provide for security of families through cash and other benefits to aid in raising, upbringing and caring for children, and in preparing them for independent living and work.

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<sup>43</sup> In addition to the above laws, the following laws also apply: FBiH Family Law („FBiH Official Gazette“ no 35/05 and 41/05), Law on Protection against Family Violence („FBiH Official Gazette“ no. 22/05), Law on Protection of Persons with Mental Disorders („FBiH Official Gazette“ no. 37/01, 40/02, 52/11, and 13/13), BiH Criminal Code („RBiH Official Gazette“ no. 3/03, 32/03, 37/03, 54/04, 32/07, 61/04, 30/05, 53/06, 55/06, 8/10, 47/14, 22/15, and 40/15), FBiH Criminal Code („FBiH Official Gazette“ no. 36/03, 37/03, 21/04, 69/04, 18/05, 42/10, and 42/11), FBiH Law on Protection and Treatment of Children and Minors Involved in Judicial Proceedings („FBiH Official Gazette“ no. 7/14) and Law on Social Protection Institutions („FBiH Official Gazette“ no. 6/92, 8/93, and 13/94).

Protection of families with children<sup>44</sup> has the following objectives:

- to secure approximately equal conditions to all children for healthy and regular physical, intellectual and emotional development in the family,
- to assist in realization of the family's reproductive role, in caring, raising, upbringing and protection of children, and in raising the quality of life of the family.
- to develop humane relations pursuant to the principles of civic morality and solidarity.

Traditionally, protection of families with children implies providing security for families through cash and other benefits to aid in raising, upbringing and caring for children, and in preparing them for independent living and work, in the best interest of the child. The existing legal framework provides for the following types of benefits:

- a) cash benefits (child allowance, childbirth and maternity benefits, baby support grants and cash allowance for infant nutrition, as well as tax breaks);
- b) time off (maternal leave for biological, adoptive and foster parents, part-time work, protection for nursing mothers); and
- c) services (nurseries, kindergartens and other preschool educational institutions).

a) In 2018, out of all benefits provided for by the Law on the Foundations of Social Protection, Protection of Civilian Victims of War, and Protection of Families with Children, the greatest number of beneficiaries - 58,261 - received child allowance and augmented child allowance (of which 28,344 received child allowance). The disbursements for these two allowances totalled 21,967,247 BAM, but their amounts varied depending on the legal solutions on the cantonal level and their economic capacity. Thus cash allowance amounts were different – varied from 20-42 BAM from one canton to another (up to 63 BAM for augmented allowance in the Sarajevo Canton). Some cantons are unable to set aside the necessary funding in their budgets (West Herzegovina and Una-Sana Canton).

The issues of access/coverage and amount of child allowance in the FBiH, which cause systemic inequality within the category of existing and potential beneficiaries of child allowance are not based on different needs (as is the case with children with special needs), but on territorial residence. This circumstance reveals that, besides the fact that allowance amounts are insufficient, there is evident territorial discrimination of children and their families in the FBiH.

Childbirth allowance, i.e., the right to wage or salary allowance for mothers during their absence from work on account of pregnancy, childbirth and child care was regulated by the FBiH Labor Law (Art. 68)<sup>45</sup>, while the allowance amount is likewise set by corresponding cantonal regulations, which results in discrimination of mothers across the FBiH territory.

According to international standards, the amount of childbirth allowance cannot be lower than two-thirds of the average monthly pay. In 2018, the total disbursement for this allowance was 34,242,614 BAM, and 6,298 persons were eligible, which means an average of 5,437 BAM per employed new mother giving birth. The amount of this allowance also varies and depends on the economic capacity and regulations of each canton. It is important to note that new mothers employed in the public sector receive allowances equal to their average salaries, while women employed in the real and private sector are paid allowances equal to 50-90% of their average wages, or no allowances at all.

A maternal allowance is an allowance for unemployed mothers. The amount of this allowance varies between 10% and 35% of the average salary (in the given canton). Unemployed new mothers are

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<sup>44</sup> Art. 88 of the Law

<sup>45</sup> Noting that, in the FBiH, the substance of this benefit was regulated by Art. 93 of the Law on the Foundations of Social Protection, Protection of Civilian Victims of War and Protection of Families with Children.

eligible only to a limited extent, which again depends on the economic capacity of a given canton or municipality. Allowances are very low and mostly one-off. In 2017, the total amount of maternal allowance for unemployed mothers paid from the cantonal budgets was 5,860,550.89 BAM for 6,539 persons, or, on average, 896 BAM per unemployed new mother, which constituted 16.5% of the average allowance for employed new mothers (in annual terms). Therefore, besides territorial discrimination, the disparities in the level of maternal allowance for employed and unemployed mothers are enormous.

The following table offers an overview of the implementation of family benefits, by canton.

Table 24: Overview of amounts of monthly allowances for families with children, 2018

| Canton              | Child allowance                |                                | One-time baby support grants, BAM | Infant nutrition allowance up to six months, BAM | Maternity benefit for employed new mothers |                        | Allowance for unemployed new mothers, BAM | Kindergarten allowance (covered from municipal budgets), BAM | School meals in elementary schools, BAM | Tuition and scholarships, BAM |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                     | Amount of child allowance, BAM | Augmented child allowance, BAM |                                   |                                                  | Lowest amount, BAM                         | Highest amount, BAM    |                                           |                                                              |                                         |                               |
| Una-Sana            | None                           | None                           | None                              | None                                             | 385.0                                      | 975.0                  | 100.0                                     | None                                                         | None                                    | None                          |
| Posavina            | 40.0                           | -                              | 100.0                             | -                                                | 549.7                                      | 997.1                  | 300.0                                     | None                                                         | None                                    | 150.0                         |
| Tuzla               | 20/4                           | 50.0                           | 153.0                             | 77.00                                            | 424.0                                      | 767.0                  | None                                      | None                                                         | 1.0                                     | None                          |
| Zenica-Doboj        | 14.6                           | 21.9                           | 109.5                             | 73.00                                            | 822.8                                      | 964.0                  | 150.0                                     | 50.0                                                         | 22.0                                    | 50.0-100.0                    |
| Bosnia-Drina        | 29.0                           | 43.5                           | 209.5                             | 119.50                                           | 359.0                                      | 1.836.9                | 149.5                                     | None                                                         | None                                    | None                          |
| Central Bosnia      | 31.50                          | 31.5                           | 244.0                             | None                                             | 201.2                                      | 779.3                  | 244.0                                     | None                                                         | None                                    | None                          |
| Herzegovina-Neretva | 25.0                           | 35.0                           | 200.0-400.0                       | None                                             | 344.0                                      | 860.0                  | 20%. 40%                                  | None                                                         | None                                    | None                          |
| West Herzegovina    | None                           | None                           | 300.0-500.0                       | None                                             | 291.6                                      | Average salary in FBiH | 250.0                                     | 96.0                                                         | None                                    | 100.0                         |
| Sarajevo Canton     | 42.0                           | 63.0                           | 210.0                             | 48.00                                            | 369.6                                      | 425.0                  | 180.0                                     | 48.0-160.0                                                   | None                                    | None                          |
| Canton 10           | 30.0                           | -                              | 300.0                             | None                                             | 410.0                                      | 889.0                  | 100.0                                     | None                                                         | None                                    | None                          |

Source: Javna politika o zaštiti obitelji sa djecom u FBiH (Public Policy on Protection of Families with Children in the FBiH), December 2019, Federation Ministry of Labor and Social Policy

Because of inconsistencies between the labor and social legislation, childbirth allowance is defined as a social protection benefit rather than an employment benefit. Moreover, social legislation is inconsistent with the amendments to the labor legislation in the segment which permits parental leave for working fathers, so currently a working father is eligible for childbirth (instead of parental) leave, but is not eligible to childbirth allowance. The role of single parents demands additional support in the sense of a reduction of poverty risk, but this category of beneficiaries has not been included.

Amounts set aside for social protection in the FBiH are not negligible, but still have no effect on poverty reduction. This means that the existing measures do not target persons in the state of social need, i.e., that few of those eligible are in the state of social need. Unfortunately, the legal solutions are formulated in such a way to base eligibility more on status and less on real needs.

b) Eligibility for childbirth leave: as a measure of family policy, existing regulations envisage *childbirth leave* (a leave at the time of childbirth for continuous 12 months) (FBiH Labor Law, Art. 62) and offer the option that a child's father can be eligible for childbirth leave (Art. 62.4).

c) Childcare services are a critical segment of the existing system of support for families with children. According to available data, in the school year 2016/2017, only 10% of children under 6 years of age in the FBiH was included in appropriate preschool education programs. Besides, the services of preschool education institutions are most often used by the families where both parents work, and only 2% by children of unemployed parents. Disparities between cantons exist in this segment as well, particularly in the context of a varying degree of development of the network of preschool education institutions in local communities. Socialization of the family's upbringing function through investment in developing accessible, affordable and adequate institutions for caring for children under 6 years of age in the FBiH is essential for stimulating more extensive participation of women in the labor market and development of an adequate and stimulating environment for development and socialization of children.

### Child protection index

The Child Protection Index is a result of collaboration of child protection experts (World Vision International and UNICEF) and legal experts focusing on children, their rights and well-being and provides an overview of the state of government efforts to fulfill the obligations assumed by signing the Convention on the Rights of the Child and by promises made to most vulnerable girls and boys in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Child Protection Index measures the following five dimensions: policies and laws, services, capacities, coordination and accountability of government action in the sense of the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child related to child protection. The index consists of a series of indicators<sup>46</sup> divided into four measures: 1) vulnerability of children, 2) governance environment, 3) activities on prevention and countering violence and providing care and protection for children, and 4) capacity for social work. The „Child Vulnerability Index“ is an integral component of the Index, and it assesses the position of children who receive care outside their biological families; availability of staff in the public sector for advocacy of the interests of vulnerable children; and, lastly, public spending for social protection in percent of GDP.

According to the data of the *Child Protection Index 1 for Bosnia Herzegovina for 2016*, the Child Vulnerability Index for BiH was 0.472 out of 1. This result put BiH in the 4th place of eight countries in the region: behind Serbia (0.62), Kosovo (0.56) and Georgia (0.49), but ahead of Romania (0.47), Bulgaria (0.40), Albania (0.34) and Armenia (0.26). In terms of results in the field of child protection, the Child Protection Index ranks BiH last of all observed countries (0.333 out of possible 1.0).<sup>47</sup>

„When it comes to disability, BiH achieves best scores in the areas of coordination (0.665) and capacity (0.400). Laws and policies (0.395) and services (0.312) have similar results, while in terms of accountability the score is quite poor (0.187). The effects of laws and policies on care and protection of children with disabilities are limited. The entities in Bosnia and Herzegovina have banned disability-based discrimination. However, the legal frameworks on both the national and entity levels

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<sup>46</sup> The Child Protection Index 1 for 2016 covered 626 indicators, while the Child Protection Index for 2019 included 987 indicators. The Index 2.0 provides insights into new fields – registration at birth, protection of children of migrants and asylum seekers, and protection of children in conflict with the law. *The data in the Child Protection Index 2.0 are not fully compatible with the Index 1.0, because of additional components.*

<sup>47</sup> UNICEF: *Situation Analysis of Children with Difficulties in Bosnia and Herzegovina*, November 2017, p. 54

do not explicitly require creation of an inclusive environment in the services for children with difficulties.”<sup>48</sup>

According to the Child Protection Index 2 for 2019, the activities of Bosnia and Herzegovina on prevention of all forms of violence against children are most obvious in the set of indicators on laws and policies (0.636), and then in the area of accountability (0.551). Coordination (0.433) was scored poorly, while the results in the service segments are weak (0.379). Capacities received the worst score, with only 0.286 points of possible 1.

BiH received the score of 0.519, out of the possible 1, for its actions on protection of children with developmental difficulties, which was slightly better result than in the Index 1.0, when the score was 0.333 and BiH was lowest-ranked of the nine countries where the Index was piloted.<sup>49</sup> Services for children with developmental difficulties received the lowest score (0.233). Access to all public spaces for children with developmental difficulties remains limited, particularly in rural areas.

### New legal solutions

Despite legally established basic rights of children, their application is insufficient to counter unfavorable demographic trends, nor as support for appropriate upbringing, raising and education of children. And even these legal solutions are discriminatory, because there are evident disparities in the levels of allowances across the cantons of the FBiH, but also because of their insufficiency.

In order to mitigate numerous detected irregularities of the laws, the FBiH Government adopted the Draft Law on Support to Families with Children in the FBiH and Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on the Foundations of Social Protection, Protection of Civilian Victims of War and Protection of Families with Children. After their adoption in the House of Representatives and House of Peoples of the FBiH Parliament, both legislative proposals were submitted for public debate on July 1st, 2020. Following the public debate, the FBiH Ministry of Labor and Social Policy will prepare these legal amendments and submit them to the Parliament for adoption.

Support to families with children, in the sense of these legislative proposals, implies support through cash benefits, with the objective to ensure for all children approximately equal material conditions for healthy and regular mental and physical development in their families.

The child allowance and cash allowance for non-working new mothers are basic rights that a family with children is eligible for under this Law, and it stipulates the beneficiaries, as well as a simple base for their calculation (average salary in the FBiH in the preceding year).

These new legal drafts stipulate that the child allowance will be funded by the FBiH Budget, while the cash benefit for unemployed new mothers will be funded by cantonal budgets. This legal solution reduces the fiscal burden on cantonal budgets, which allows allocation of funding for other social and child protection rights, contributes to socially fairer and fiscally more sustainable operation of the system, elimination of discrimination based on the place of residence and harmonization of the children's rights in the FBiH. It is projected that more than 34 million BAM will

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<sup>48</sup> UNICEF: Analysis of children with developmental difficulties

<sup>49</sup> For more details, see: Stronger Voice for Children, World Vision BiH, ChildPact, *Child Protection Index 2, Bosnia and Herzegovina 2019, Measuring Government Efforts to Protect Girls and Boys*, April 2019, UNICEF, Analysis of Children with Developmental Difficulties.

be needed to fund the child allowance and cash allowance for unemployed new mothers in the territory of the FBiH, and these funds should be allocated in the FBiH Budget.<sup>50</sup>

However, adopting the new laws is only a partial solution to the problem of protection of families with children. To achieve significant effects in the disrupted demographic structure of the FBiH, it will be necessary to adopt considered public policies, measures of population and family policy, whose adoption ought to involve many more stakeholders.

An important element of these legislative proposals relates to the modalities of alternative forms of care, with the focus on children and on transformation of institutions that provide care for them. The Law on Foster Parenting in the FBiH was adopted in 2017. The main purpose of this law was to facilitate the process of child care, primarily for children without parental care and children with disabilities, as well as for adults with disabilities, and elderly without parental care, all of whom can be cared for by foster parents, individuals or families. Setting a single minimum for budget funding of foster care will ensure that allowances for placement and foster care are harmonized, and the quality of foster care services will improve in the entire FBiH.<sup>51</sup>

### Violence against children and bullying

Bullying is a daily reality for thousands of children across Southeastern Europe. Data indicate that more than half of boys and girls 2-14 years old (in some countries, more than 70%) was exposed to some of more severe forms of bullying at least once. According to the results of the 2011-2012 Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS<sup>52</sup>), 55% of children 2-14 years old in BiH was exposed to some form of forceful disciplining, while 40% of children experienced physical punishment and 42% psychological aggression. BiH is among the countries in the region in which children are most exposed to sexual violence and contact sexual abuse. Around 19% of children 11-16 years of age stated that they had been exposed to sexual contact in the course of their lives, while 10% stated that they had experienced sexual violence in the course of their lives.<sup>53</sup>

Bullying is increasingly widespread in BiH, and in the last ten years it has been on the rise. A study of bullying conducted by the „Kap“ Association in 2017 and 2018 revealed that one in three children in the FBiH were victims of bullying. Besides, many children witness family violence, which leaves long-term consequences for their psychological and physical development. In addition, children from marginalized groups face a greater risk to become victims of human trafficking.

There are no systematic records of cases of violence, nor any official statistics to record and track bullying. Experiences of children and young people is that violence occurs daily, with psychological violence being most widespread, followed by physical violence, which is most visible, and cyber or electronic violence, which is becoming increasingly present.

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<sup>50</sup> The Law on Support to Families with Children in the FBiH will enter into force 12 months after its adoption, and the Law on Amendments to the Law on the Foundations of Social Protection, Protection of Civilian Victims of War, and Protection of Families with Children enters into force on January 1, 2021.

<sup>51</sup> Note that the Working Body for Tracking the Implementation of the Law on Foster Care in the FBiH initiated a process of amending this law, and this body requested the cantonal ministries with competence over the field of social and child protection, social protection departments/centers for social work, as well as the members of the NGO sectors, as associated members of the Working Body, to provide their comments and suggestions, for incorporation, so this amended draft law may be submitted to the Parliament for adoption.

<sup>52</sup> UNICEF (2011). Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS). Available at: [http://ba.one.un.org/content/unct/bosnia\\_and\\_herzegovina/en/home/publications/istra\\_ivanje-vi\\_estrukih-pokazatelja--mics--bih-2011----2012--/](http://ba.one.un.org/content/unct/bosnia_and_herzegovina/en/home/publications/istra_ivanje-vi_estrukih-pokazatelja--mics--bih-2011----2012--/)

<sup>53</sup> Balkan Epidemiological Study of Child Abuse and Neglect (BECAN), 2012, available at: [https://bib.irb.hr/datoteka/596233.Rezultati\\_epidemiološkog\\_istraivanja\\_nasilja\\_nad\\_djecom\\_u\\_obitelji.pdf](https://bib.irb.hr/datoteka/596233.Rezultati_epidemiološkog_istraivanja_nasilja_nad_djecom_u_obitelji.pdf)

In BiH, as well as in the FBiH, there is a series of protocols, strategies, and action plans aimed to counter and protect children from bullying in schools, but the implementation of these measures in practice is ineffective. It is necessary to strengthen the system for protection of children and for supporting every child's right to be free of violence, neglect and abuse, including the right to living in a healthy family environment.

## Children with developmental difficulties

Children with developmental difficulties are one of the most vulnerable categories of the population. Although BiH is a signatory to numerous international instruments, exercising the rights of children with developmental difficulties continues to be difficult. Numerous international and non-governmental organizations in the FBiH are investing considerable efforts to enable persons with disabilities to exercise their rights to key services (healthcare, education, and social protection) and to participate fully in the society on an equal footing with others.

Within the framework of exercising social protection rights, in 2019 there were 8,134 minors with disorders in their physical and mental development, which constitutes 10.5% of all underage beneficiaries of social protection, but, at the same time, 425 fewer beneficiaries relative to 2013. In recent years, there have been perceptible advances in social inclusion of children with developmental difficulties through, among other things, adoption of new laws and policies, better access to basic social services and gradual evolution of attitudes in a positive direction.

## Roma children

Roma children are certainly the most marginalized category of children. Key indicators for Roma children reveal that these children are three times as likely to live in poverty than their non-Roma peers, five times as likely to be undernourished, and are twice as prone to growth retardation. Their elementary school enrollment rate is one-third lower than for their non-Roma peers, and the immunization rate is only 4%, compared with 68% for the majority population.

The 2011-2012 Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS) on Roma population in BiH showed that:

- Infant mortality rate among the Roma is 24 to 1,000 live births, while the likelihood of a child dying before the age of five is around 27 to 1,000 live births.
- Twenty-one percent of Roma children are of short stature, while 8% exhibit seriously retarded growth.
- Only 2% of Roma children aged 36-59 months attend organized programs of early childhood education, while only 4% of Roma children in the first grade of elementary school attended a preschool institution during the preceding year.
- Only half of Roma children of age to enroll in elementary school actually attend the first grade.
- More than half of Roma children 2-14 years old were exposed to some form of psychological or physical punishment by their parents or other adult members of their households.

Despite the adoption of key strategic documents on Roma issues<sup>54</sup>, marginalization of Roma children is pronounced, and it is brought about in particular by poor living conditions, gaps in access to

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<sup>54</sup> The Strategy for Roma was adopted in 2005 and has been implemented in accordance with the 2017-2020 Action Plan for Addressing Roma Issues in Employment, Housing and Healthcare and 2018-2022 Framework Action Plan on Educational Needs of Roma Boys and Girls in BiH. The BiH Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees allocates around 1.2 million EUR every year to fund Roma-related activities, with the entities, cantons, and municipalities, as well as international organizations, setting aside as much, particularly for addressing housing issues. Source: UNICEF: Situation Analysis of the Status of Children in BiH, March 2020, p. 26

healthcare, education, social protection, frequently even by food shortages, and failure to enter their names in birth registers.

## Strategic documents

As human beings, children have all the rights guaranteed by various international human rights instruments and based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which BiH acceded by succession, is certainly the most important international source adopted to protect children.

On the international level, numerous instruments and conventions related to children and exercise of children's rights. These include: European Social Charter, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, European Convention on Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, UN International Treaty on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor, UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Council of Europe's Action Plan for Promotion of Rights and Full Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Europe 2006-2015, UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care for Children, etc.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is also included in an Annex to the Dayton Peace Accords and, as well as other conventions ratified by BiH, has a priority in implementation. To improve the position of children, in July 2002 the BiH Council of Ministers adopted the 2002-2010 Action Plan for BiH Children, and in 2011 the second Action Plan for BiH Children for 2011-2014. The general purpose of the Action Plan was to define priority objectives and measures that must be implemented in 2011-2014 to create the most favorable possible conditions for children and family life, their healthy mental and physical growth and inclusion in society, and participation in decision-making, all in children's best interest.

On the basis of the implementation reports for the above two action plans, the third Action Plan was developed for 2015-2018, defining the measures for protection of children's human rights in BiH, measures related to education, healthcare, social protection, special forms of protection of children, and measures related to children in vulnerable categories, to reporting and coordination.

Apart from children action plans, numerous other documents and recommendations on safeguarding children's rights and strengthening children were adopted on the level of BiH and harmonized with international instruments, including:

- 2007-2010 State Strategy for Countering Violence against Children
- Framework Policy for Early Growth and Development of Children in BiH
- Preparedness Plan for Controlling the Influence of the Pandemic in BiH
- Revised Action Plan on Educational Needs of Roma
- BiH Strategy to Counter Violence Against Children (2012-2015)
- Standardized procedures in Treatment of Children Victims and Witnesses of Human Trafficking
- Guidelines for Action in Cases of Violence against Children
- Ethics Code for Study with Children and of Children.
- Guidelines to Assess and Determine a Child's Best Interest, a Professionals' Guidebook
- Guidelines to Improve the Position of Roma Children in BiH – Social Inclusion
- Guidelines to Identify Socially Excluded Categories.

Established within the BiH Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees in late 2002 by a decree of the BiH Council of Ministers, the BiH Council for Children is in charge of the implementation of the Action Plan and creation of relevant policies. Through application of a multidisciplinary approach,

cooperation and coordination have been established between all stakeholders of the implementation of the Action Plan for Children.

Multiple strategies and plans have been adopted on the level of FBiH to improve protection of children:

- Strategy of Deinstitutionalization and Transformation of Social Protection Institutions in the FBiH (2014-2020)
- Strategy for Countering Violence Against Children (2015-2018)
- FBiH Strategy for Prevention and Countering Family Violence (2013-2017)
- Strategy for Improvement of Rights and Position of Persons with Disabilities in the FBiH (2016-2021)
- Healthcare Strategic Development Plan in the FBiH (2008-2018)
- Policy for Promotion of Early Growth and Development of Children in the FBiH
- Strategic Plan to Promote Early Growth and Development of Children in the FBiH (2020-2025)
- Strategic Plan to Promote Early Growth and Development of Children in the FBiH (2013-2017)
- Action Plan for Implementation of the Strategy for Prevention and Countering Family Violence in BiH (2018-2022).
- Policy to Improve Child Nutrition in the FBiH
- Guidelines for Healthy Nutrition of Children up to the Age of Three
- Action Plan to Protect Children and Prevent Violence against Children through Information and Communications Technologies in BiH (2006-2016)
- Strategy of Prevention and Countering Family Violence (2013-2017)

It is important to note that, in early 2016, the BiH Council for Children launched initiatives to adopt children action plans on the level of the entities, cantons and local communities, as well as to allocate budget funding for the operation of the BiH Council for Children and implementation of the Action Plan for Children. A council for children has not yet been established, an action plan developed, not earmarked budget funding allocated on the level of the FBiH.

Hence, despite the adoption of numerous strategic instruments in BiH and the FBiH and the progress achieved in several areas of children's rights, considerable inequities persist based on age, gender, disability status and place of residence, particularly regarding Roma community children and other vulnerable children. In both BiH and the FBiH there is no systematic tracking of data on the rights of children in BiH that would permit comprehensive monitoring of exercise of children's rights.

The adoption of the new laws in the FBiH (Law on Support for Families with Children in the FBiH and Law on Amendments to the Law on the Foundations of Social Protection, Protection of Civilian Victims of War and Protection of Families with Children) will create the preconditions to address the following key problems in social protection: lack of harmonization, unsustainability and ineffectiveness of the legal framework for protection of families with children throughout the territory of the FBiH, discrimination in the benefit-setting system in the FBiH; constraining capacities and working conditions of the competent bodies for implementation of these laws, as well as unsystematic cooperation and coordination between key stakeholders in the field of protection of families with children in the FBiH. Along with the implementation of the legislation in place, public policy measures also need to be oriented towards harmonization of legal framework in this area. This would mean creation of a fairer system in which eligibility for various benefits would not depend on territorial and administrative factors and economic capacity of each canton, and it would empower families with children that are really in need of assistance.

However, the issues of poverty and social exclusion of children cannot be addressed by legislation, because they permeate all aspects of life and social activities. Social benefits provide one type of assistance, but poverty demands a long-term approach and fundamental socioeconomic reforms

that would provide a stronger boost for overall development and that would be based on a new approach to development.

According to the report, children living in poverty feel excluded and stigmatized. They have poorer chances of doing well at school, enjoying good health, and, later, of achieving their full life potential. Inability to get education, play and share their free time with others, or being mistreated because of their ethnic origin, sexual orientation or other status instills in children experiences that leave traces during their entire lives. From the standpoint of human rights, a quality of society is measured by the way it treats its most vulnerable and marginalized groups.

The continuing decline of the number of children in the territory of the FBiH, as well as in all of BiH, leads to depopulation. The youth age dependency ratio, which was 21.0 per mille in 2019, points to the need to invest in human capital – preschool institutions, schools, healthcare, new jobs.

All children in the FBiH do not have equal access to preschool institutions, quality programs, and longer-lasting use of such programs that would stimulate their potential. Access to preschool institutions and quality programs is directly dependent on parents' financial capacity. Besides this discrimination on the basis of poverty, other identified forms of determination were by the place of residence (city – village – remoteness on the territory of the municipality), place of parents in the social division of labor (marginalized and vulnerable groups), children's health condition (children with special needs, with developmental difficulties, etc.), children's family status (single parents, children without parental care), etc. This signifies further deepening of inequality and a threat to the right to early education, which results in increasing poverty and reveals absence of social inclusion mechanisms in the building of the new society.

Social protection of children is characterized by: a lack of harmony, sustainability and effectiveness of the legal framework for protection of families with children on the entire territory of the FBiH; discrimination in the benefit-setting system in the FBiH; constraining capacities and working conditions of the competent bodies for implementation of these laws, as well as unsystematic cooperation and coordination between key stakeholders in the field of protection of families with children in the FBiH.

## 9. Youth

Young people are valuable social capital, a resource, representatives of a desirable future, bearers of dominant social values that are conveyed from one generation to the next, and it is essential to create conditions for their optimal social development.<sup>55</sup>

According to the 2013 Census, the youth in the FBiH constitute 21.5% of the total population. The young account for 22.5% of the total male population, and 20.6% of the total female population.

The key role of youth policy is to integrate youth into the society, to assume social roles, while simultaneously establishing the freedom of preferences, choice of creative approaches and empowering their active participation.

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<sup>55</sup> Youth is most frequently defined as a transitional period between childhood and adulthood. Statistically, the age of 15 is most frequently selected as the lower boundary of youth, while the upper boundary varies, and most often is set at 24, sometimes at 29 or 34, depending on the guidelines for the extension of youth in modern society. The Labor Force Survey considers youth to be 15-24 year olds. According to the FBiH Law on Youth, „youth“ are persons between the age of 15 and 30.

The World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY), affirmed by the UN General Assembly in 1995 and revised and amended in 2007, provides a framework and guidelines for improving the situation of youth<sup>56</sup>. In accordance with its competences, the UN Youth Programme provides information on the status of youth on the global level to governments, young people, representatives of civil society and other stakeholders through publication of the World Youth Report (WYR).

Two special publications of the World Youth Report focused on the Agenda 2030: „Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development“ (January 2019) and to social entrepreneurship, „World Youth Report 2020 on Youth Social Entrepreneurship and the 2030 Agenda“, (January 2020).<sup>57</sup>

The Youth Report on the Agenda 2030 examined the interconnections between the purpose of the Agenda 2030 and the global youth development efforts and offered insights in the role of youth in sustainable development and implementation of the Agenda 2030 and SDGs. The report on the significance of social entrepreneurship in the context of the Agenda 2030 sought to contribute to the understanding how social entrepreneurship by young people might support youth development and assist in accelerated implementation of SDGs at the same time.

The European Union invested extensive efforts in meeting the needs of youth and in solving the problems young people face. The care of the EU of youth culminated by the adoption of the first European youth strategy – 2001 „White Paper on Youth“, which offers to Member States suggestions on cooperation with youth in four priority areas: participation, information, volunteering and better understanding and knowledge about youth. In March 2005, the European Commission adopted a political instrument – European Youth Pact – as part of the revised Lisbon Strategy, which promotes participation of all young people in education, employment and society. The EU youth strategy entitled „EU Youth Strategy – Investment and Empowerment“ for 2010-2018 was adopted in 2009.

In late 2018, a new European Youth Strategy was adopted at the EU's Education, Youth, Culture and Sports Council (EYCS). According to this new strategy, which will be in place 2019-2027, the focus is on encouraging and supporting youth to become active, autonomous and capable citizens, on improving policies in all sectors of importance for youth, on creation of equal opportunities for all youth and on contributing to eradicate youth poverty as well as all forms of discrimination.<sup>58</sup>

Promotion of national youth policies in the countries of Southeastern Europe started in 1999 with the creation of the Youth Working Group within the framework of the Working Table and the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe with the objective to promote development of national youth programs in the Balkans countries. A national youth program is a strategic document which sets a clearer definition of youth and ascertains needs and problems of young people, their position in society and their organization on the national level.

The Sustainable Development Goals Framework for BiH, which sets out the development pathways for implementation of the Agenda 2030, integrates the importance and role of youth across multiple pathways, particularly in connection with education. The Smart Growth strategic pathway includes Accelerator 3, which relates to enhancement of access to quality education and training. A different

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<sup>56</sup> The guidelines relate to 15 priority areas: education; employment; hunger and poverty; health; natural environment; drug abuse; juvenile delinquency; free time; girls and young women; involvement of youth in decision-making; globalization; information and communications technologies; HIV/AIDS; armed conflicts, and intergenerational conflicts.

<sup>57</sup> These reports are available at the website: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/world-youth-report.html>

<sup>58</sup> Objectives set in the European Youth Strategy relate to eleven areas: Connecting EU with Youth, Equality of All Genders, Inclusive Societies, Information & Constructive Dialogue, Mental Health & Wellbeing, Moving Rural Youth Forward, Quality Employment for All, Quality Learning, Space and Participation for All, Sustainable Green Europe, Youth Organizations, and European Programs.

development pathway: Society of Equal Opportunities, emphasizes Accelerator 4, which relates to strengthening of an inclusive education system.

On the level of BiH there is no legislation that governs general youth issues, there is no „umbrella“ youth body, nor was a strategic document addressing youth issues on the state level written and adopted. A significant step was made in 2004 with the establishment of the Commission for Coordination of Youth Issues in BiH, as a standing body of the BiH Council of Ministers. The Commission operates within the BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs and is in charge of coordination of activities of all stakeholders relevant for promotion and protection of the role and position of youth in BiH. A higher focus on BiH youth was also included in the Action Plan for Implementation of BiH Priorities for EU Accession, which includes the measure „Urgently implement active employment measures to address high unemployment rates, particularly youth unemployment, and provide effective support to job seekers.“

The Youth Law in the FBiH was adopted in 2010, it governs matters that pertain to the status, livelihood and activities of youth, and it sought to create an institutional basis for treatment of youth and to set up an organized and systematic approach to youth issues. The FBiH Ministry of Culture and Sports, which includes a Sector for Youth, is in charge of youth issues.

The FBiH Youth Law<sup>59</sup> regulates institutional and budgetary aspects of the implementation of the youth policy on all levels of government: from the state level and competent ministries to the cantonal and municipal levels. The relevant legal provisions in the FBiH provided for creation of youth commissions on the entity, cantonal and municipal levels, which should constitute a key link in the dialogue between youth and competent institutions. Establishment of a Youth Council, a working body that would encompass youth organizations, was also stipulated.

The Youth Council on the FBiH level was established in late 2015, as a free, voluntary, non-political, non-governmental and non-profit youth organization. The FBiH Youth Council has the right and duty to legitimately represent and advocate for interests of the cantonal youth councils that established it on all levels of government. The FBiH Youth Advisory Committee was created within the Youth Council.

Although the Youth Law stipulated mandatory development and adoption of youth strategies on all levels of government, a youth strategy for the FBiH has not been prepared. The FBiH Government initiated the process of development of the Youth Strategy in 2013. An initiative to begin the development process and adopt the 2021-2025 Youth Strategy again received support of the House of Representatives of the FBiH Parliament in late 2019. However, the actual issue of the development of the Youth Strategy remains off the agenda.

Separately, the 2018-2021 Youth Employment Strategy in the FBiH, which was submitted for parliamentary procedure by the FBiH Government in late 2019, as of 2020 has not received necessary support of the FBiH MPs.

Education and employment are the key elements that determine social and economic situation of young people.

## Education

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<sup>59</sup> FBiH Youth Law („FBiH Official Gazette“ no. 36/10)

As emphasized in the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, education has a key role in changing the world, and inclusive and fair quality education and promotion of lifelong learning for all are one of the goals. In the context of social inclusion, education is a powerful tool that empowers individuals, particularly those who are socially and economically marginalized, for equal participation in society.

In order to exercise the right to education in practice, the right to education has to include the following key dimensions: accessibility, availability, acceptability and adaptability. This includes the degree of the education system's adaptation to persons with disabilities, minorities and other marginalized groups, and particularly for young mothers and parents who wish to continue their education

A special importance of education is also emphasized in the Analytical Report on BiH published by the European Commission in May 2019, which states that education in Bosnia and Herzegovina is „ineffective in guiding students towards areas where there is demand on the domestic labor market“ and that particular attention needs to be paid to „low quality of education and insufficient orientation to current and future skills in demand on the labor market“.

The Framework Law on Elementary and Secondary Education in BiH stipulates that every young person has equal rights of access to and participation in education, without discrimination on any basis. The above implies inclusion of young people with developmental difficulties into the regular education system, which fulfills their right to education under equal conditions. However, because of insufficient funding for education, inadequacy of premises and equipment in many schools in BiH, insufficient number of appropriately trained teaching staff, as well as enduring negative attitudes towards inclusion of young people with special needs into the regular education system, the implementation of inclusive education in BiH has progressed relatively sluggishly.

Although inclusive education does not relate solely to inclusion of young persons with special needs into regular schools, but it also refers to creation of an education system that will allow all individuals to develop their own potential, the view that inclusive education constitutes a form of social support to the process of learning and development of children with special needs is still common. In terms of implementation of the concept of inclusive education, the FBiH faces the following key challenges:

- raising awareness of the community on implementing inclusion;
- strengthening of the legal framework that will ensure inclusion of young persons with special needs in the education system;
- provision of systemic support for professional development of teaching staff;
- support to educational activities and support to the teaching process;
- development of partnerships between educational institutions and families, local communities, civil society and the labor market; and
- strengthening cooperation of elementary and secondary schools.

The general assessment is that education both in BiH and in the FBiH is not inclusive and that it is not attached appropriate importance, although it is an essential pillar in the social inclusion and education approach in the EU. Moreover, the situation is unfavorable also with regard to enrollment, coverage of youth, with regard to quality of education, fragmentation of higher education institutions, with a proliferation of private colleges and universities, with the education system's focus on theory, without a practical component in education, with the education's incompatibility with the needs in the labor market. Education reforms are lagging and there is no human resources policy.

Data on youth education in the FBiH is worrying. Young people without any education whatsoever or with incomplete elementary education account for 1.95% (2% and 1.9% for men and women,

respectively) of the total youth population. Young people with junior college and university education represent 13.1% (9.9% and 16.4% for men and women, respectively) of the youth population in the FBiH.

Enrollment in secondary schools in the FBiH has dwindled continuously, while early leaving of secondary school is a constant tendency. A decline in the enrollment in universities is also evident. In 2019/2020 there was 14,553 enrolled university students, which was down by around 20% relative to the enrollment in 2013/2014, when 72,601 students had enrolled.<sup>60</sup> Enrollment in secondary schools has dropped by around 32% over the same period. Levels of computer equipment in schools are low, although they exhibit a rising tendency. In the school year 2019/2020, there 1 computer per 22.1 students, and 1 Internet access per 29.8 students. In the same school year, one computer was used by 11.6 students, and one Internet access by 14.4 students in secondary schools.<sup>61</sup>

Table 25: Secondary school and university enrollment. 2013-2019

| Education level   | 2013    | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   | 2019   | Index<br>2019/2013 |
|-------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------------------|
| Secondary schools | 106,056 | 96,331 | 87,813 | 82,675 | 81,454 | 76,174 | 72,892 | 68.73              |
| Universities      | 72,601  | 71,873 | 72,112 | 69,969 | 66,027 | 62,285 | 58,048 | 79.95              |

Source: FBiH Statistics Institute

According to a study conducted by the Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung<sup>62</sup>, nearly one in two young persons in BiH exiting the formal system of education remains at the level of three-year secondary education or lower. This means that BiH is considerably below the EU average in the share of persons with completed four-year secondary or higher education. In BiH, one person in four leaves the education process early, which is far above the average in most European countries. Financial issues are the main reason for interruption of education, and only 7% of pupils and students receive any educational scholarships, most often of 100 BAM and never over 200 BAM per month. As many as 46.5% of young people declared that they never had any internships or traineeships, with 58% thinking that it would be difficult, and 14.9% very difficult, for them to find jobs with their current qualifications.

The 2020-2022 Economic Reform Program<sup>63</sup> noted that there are multiple key impediments that impact on competitiveness in the area of education and skills: lack of harmonization of enrollment policies with the labor market requirements; insufficiently developed entrepreneurial-innovation and digital competences; lack of a strategic framework for development of human resources, scarcity of funding, adequate trainers and trainings for both teaching and non-teaching staff, underdeveloped infrastructure and low levels of equipment in educational institutions, practical instruction and training outside educational institutions are not available to most students of vocational secondary schools and universities; a shortage of mentors to oversee work of secondary school and university students; and teaching processes are not sufficiently adapted to modern methods and forms of work.

Reform implies development of key competences with a focus on entrepreneurial-innovation and digital competences in the domain of secondary and higher education, development of new qualifications based on learning outcomes, harmonization of vocational and qualification standards

<sup>60</sup> Certainly, the fact that many young people are emigrating should be taken into account as a factor in the decline in university enrollments.

<sup>61</sup> This calculation includes only computers and Internet access for dedicated student use, as the computer equipment and Internet access for teachers are tracked by statistics.

<sup>62</sup> Turčilo L., Osmić A., Kapidžić D., Šadić S., Žiga J., Dudić A.: Studija o mladima BiH 2018/2019 (A Study of BiH Youth 2018/2019), Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), 2018

<sup>63</sup> BiH Council of Ministers: 2020-2020 Economic Reform Program (ERP BiH), Sarajevo, January 2020

with the needs of the labor market, and it is the only path to accelerate economic development and, consequently, increase employment.

Finding a job is impossible without educational qualifications, which increases the risk of entering a vicious circle of lack of education, unemployment and poverty. Monitoring implementation of inclusion in education implies recognizing examples of good practices, but also barriers and challenges its implementers face.

Education is the most potent path to attainment of the SDGs, with a special goal (SDG 4) to ensure inclusive and fair education and promote the possibility of lifelong learning for all. Education is the foundation of a fundamental shift in ways of thinking and action, which is the essence of overall development.

From the standpoint of social inclusion, development of education should be channelled towards inclusive and quality education, competitive and linked with the requirements of the labor market. The chain of inclusiveness starts with education, which enables individuals to enter the labor market, thereby achieving financial self-sufficiency and economic independence.

It is a way to prevent emergence of poverty, while at the same time attaining better quality of life. There are numerous social exclusion factors that are directly linked with education, and the most frequent causes are poor financial situation of the family and inadequate systemic solutions for different levels of education. Additional risk factors for exclusion in education are health issues, physical and mental impairments, and belonging to a minority group (such as Roma), or being a returnee to a given area or region.

## Un/employment

In the social inclusion context, there are many possibilities vital for life (access to employment, services, education, healthcare services, information, technologies, land, capital, water supply, housing, etc.). Each person desires access to opportunities to participate in economic, social, cultural and political life. These are fundamental rights enshrined in the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1947). Still, of all economic opportunities, employment or work is the most fundamental, as it allows people self-realization and the way to generate income to ensure a decent living standard.

Employment is certainly an indicator of the overall social progress, a core factor of economic development, and a fundamental objective of economic development plans.

Competent institutions for labor and employment on the level of BiH are the BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs, which has a Sector for Labor, Employment, Social Protection and Pensions, and BiH Agency for Labor and Employment. The Ministry has a coordinating role in the area of labor and development.

In the FBiH, the competence over employment is shared between the FBiH Government and cantons. The competent labor and employment institutions on the entity level are: FBiH Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, FBiH Ministry of Development, Entrepreneurship, and Crafts, FBiH

Employment Bureau, Fund for Professional Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities and FBiH Inspection Administration.

The competences of the FBiH Ministry of Development, Entrepreneurship, and Crafts relate to provision of incentives to some sectors of the economy. The FBiH Employment Bureau and ten cantonal-level employment agencies conduct labor intermediation activities. The competences of the FBiH Employment Bureau are set forth in the Law on Labor Intermediation and Social Security of the Unemployed.

Unemployment is the other side of the employment coin. Together with poverty, it is the greatest problem in the world today. As of end-2019, there was more than 187.69 million unemployed (according to the ILO), of whom more than 67.63 million young people (15-24), or 36%. In the EU (EU 28) there were 15.72 million unemployed, of whom 3.26 million were young people (20.7%).

Unemployment is one of the gravest economic and social challenges facing the contemporary society. Its effects afflict the unemployed and their families directly, while also weakening the economy and the society as a whole.

In the FBiH, regardless of the continuation of the declining tendency from the previous period, unemployment is still to a great extent structural and high overall. This means that the greatest share of the total are persons who have been unemployed for over one year – the long-term unemployed. While there has been some progress in the modernization of labor legislation, as well as in strengthening of the business environment, promotion of a stronger and sustainable economic growth requires a more efficient public sector and a more dynamic development of the private sector.

As of end-2019, there were 519,483 employed persons recorded in the FBiH, which constitutes an increase of 84,370 persons relative to the end-2013 level, and the employment rate rose from 27.6% in 2013 to 34.8% in 2019. At the same time, the registered unemployment fell by over 84 thousand, from 391,942 in 2013 to 307,864, bringing the registered unemployment rate down from 47.4% in 2013 to 37.2% in 2019. Over the same period, the registered unemployment of youth 15-24 years of age declined by over 24,000 (from 66,127 in 2013 to 41,689 in 2019).

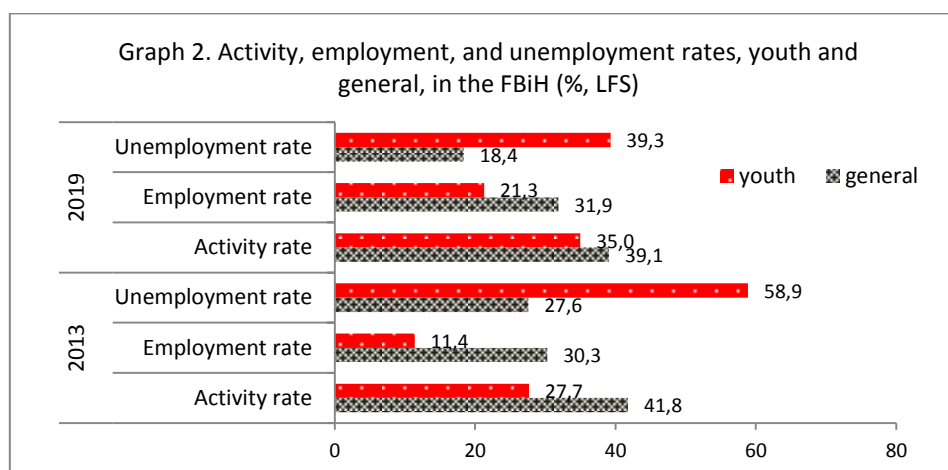
However, the Labor Force Surveys (LFS) portray a somewhat different situation. The survey's methodological settings are based on the recommendations and definitions of the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the requirements of the EUROSTAT, which ensures international comparability of data in the domain of labor statistics. Thus, in accordance with the LFS, the employment rates rose from 30.3% in 2013 to 31.9% in 2019. The unemployment rates decreased significantly, from 27.6% to 18.4% over the same period. The LFS data are lower, which primarily reveals the presence of a grey labor market, but also further exacerbates implementation of active employment policies and increases the pressure on registrations with the employment bureaus to access health or social insurance (as of end-2019, there were 11,089 recipients of cash benefits and 210,162 beneficiaries of health insurance). Both sources clearly show that there was a decline in the rate of unemployment, but there is no official data about the share in this decline that can be attributed to outmigration from BiH.

According to the LFS employment indicators, the youth activity rate<sup>64</sup> increased from 27.7% in 2013 to 35% in 2019. The general activity rate is considerably higher relative to the youth activity rate, although the relative differential has decreased (in 2013, the general activity rate was more than 50% higher than the rate for youth, but only around 12% in 2019).

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<sup>64</sup> The activity rate is the ratio of the workforce (sum of employed and unemployed persons) and the working age population (15-65).

The youth employment rate increased from 11.4% in 2013 to 21.3% in 2019. This is considerably below the general employment rate, although the differential decreased in 2019.



The youth unemployment rate was 39.3% in 2019, which was a decrease relative to 2013, when it was 58.9% (index = 0.67), but still considerably higher than the general unemployment rate in the FBiH. Unemployment affects young people twice as often than adults in most European countries and represents a major cause of poverty. Because of high youth unemployment rates, many European countries intensified introduction of active employment measures, on both national and local levels, to boost employment of the most vulnerable categories of the population, which includes youth. According to the EUROSTAT data, EU Member States Czech Republic, Germany, Netherlands, as well as Switzerland, have the lowest youth unemployment rates, ranging from 5-8%. The highest youth unemployment rates were recorded in Greece and Spain, over 30%.

Table 26: Youth employment indicators in the neighboring countries. %

| Zemlje   | Youth employment rate |      | Youth unemployment rate |      |
|----------|-----------------------|------|-------------------------|------|
|          | 2013                  | 2019 | 2013                    | 2019 |
| EU 28    | 57.7                  | 63.6 | 24.4                    | 15.0 |
| Croatia  | 41.0                  | 59.3 | 50.0                    | 16.6 |
| Serbia   | 36.6                  | 50.2 | ...                     | 27.5 |
| Slovenia | 56.2                  | 68.0 | 21.6                    | 8.1  |
| FBiH     | 11.4                  | 21.3 | 58.9                    | 39.3 |

Source: Author's adaptation, EUROSTAT database

In the FBiH, although certain progress in youth employment has been recorded, the real indicators visibly lag behind the average achieved rates in the EU and neighboring countries.

The unemployment security system (as part of the social security system) in the FBiH includes both so-called passive and active labor market measures. Passive measures involve eligibility to financial and social security during unemployment, which entails cash benefits and contributions for health and pension insurance. Active measures are focused on providing support for unemployed persons through improving their knowledge and skills, better integration into the labor market, and incentives for self-employment. Typically, these take the form of employment and self-employment programs and services.

Considerable funding is channelled into provision of financial and social security of the unemployed (cash benefits, health insurance, and pension and disability insurance of the unemployed), but also into active employment policy programs.

While employment bureaus offer trainings for acquisition of certain skills that should enhance individuals' competitiveness in the labor market, they do not register the unemployed by skills, but by education level. Correspondingly, when advertizing positions, most employers list skills required for performing tasks related to the job in question.

Implementation of active employment policies is additionally complicated by the presence of the informal economy, which causes the large difference between the registered and survey unemployment. The data on active employment policies in the FBiH are not consolidated. The only available data on active policies are those implemented by employment bureaus. In 2019, the active employment policy measures and programs were primarily focused on: stimulating employment with known employers, self-employment, training, vocational and advanced training, preparation of the unemployed for working on the market, continuation of previously initiated activities, but also on implementation of new measures. Among employment co-funding programs and measures, the „2019 First Work Experience“ project was of the greatest significance for young people. The program involved 626 young people, at the cost of 2.8 million BAM. Within the „2019 Startup“ Self-Employment Co-Funding Program, the special program for youth: „2019 Youth Entrepreneurship“ was relevant. The implementation of this measure included 407 young people at the cost of 1.9 million BAM.

The joint projects the Employment Bureau implements with other institutions and organizations are the Youth Employment Project in BiH (YEP) and Employment Support Project in BiH.

Employment is one of the basic preconditions for ensuring social inclusion. One in four younger persons works in jobs that are different from their specialization or formal training, which results in considerable gaps in knowledge and skills required to perform in their jobs. Most opportunities for youth employment are in the informal labor market, with poor working conditions, low-quality jobs and no security, often below the level of their attained qualifications.

In combination with housing issues and the lingering economic crisis, young people descend into desperation and hopelessness, into passivity, they cannot plan to start their families, they plan emigration as the only option that will provide them with a decent future. Quite a few young people left BiH and the trend continues, which is disastrous for the long-term prospects of starting and maintaining overall development. Young people emigrate abroad to look for employment, but also, to a great extent, because of the unstable political situation in the country.

For the past decade, the BiH labor market has been, and continues to be, characterized by high rates of inactivity, unemployment, and, in particular, long-term unemployment. Active employment policies in the labor market, although they show a positive trend, require evaluation of their effectiveness and sustainability over a longer period. Employment bureaus on all levels of government, while providing trainings for acquisition of certain skills that should enhance individuals' competitiveness in the labor market, do not register the unemployed by skills, but by their education level. On the other hand, when advertizing positions, most employers list skills required for performing tasks related to the job in question.

## 10. Elderly

Prolongation of life and reduced human mortality on the Planet are considered among the greatest achievements of human development. At the same time, population aging is a global process, both in the EU and in BiH. At the start of this millennium, to address challenges related to population aging and to building a society for all generations, the Second World Assembly on Aging was held in

Madrid. The Madrid International Plan of Action on Aging (MIPAA)<sup>65</sup>, offering a new agenda on aging-related issues for the 21st century. For the first time, the governments agreed to link the issues of aging with other frameworks for social and economic development and human rights. The Members of the European Economic Commission of the United Nations (UNECE) developed a regional strategy undertaking to integrate all aspects of population aging into development policies. The European Social Charter was also reduced in the section that relates to special protection of the elderly.

As a signatory to the MIPAA and to the revised European Social Charter (2008), Bosnia and Herzegovina accepted to develop policies, strategies and action plans that would enable healthy and active aging of its population. Pursuant to the Constitution of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina<sup>66</sup> entrusts social policy and consequently all issues related to the status of the elderly to the Federation and cantonal authorities. This jurisdiction is exercised either jointly, separately or by the cantons with coordination by the Federation authorities.

The FBiH Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, acting within its powers, prepared the 2018-2027 Strategy for Improvement of the Status of the Elderly in the FBiH.<sup>67</sup> The main focus of policies on aging in this strategy was to address the issues related to poverty, healthcare services, housing and living conditions, aging in rural and economically vulnerable areas, social protection, lifelong learning, active participation of the elderly in the community, prevention of violence, neglect and abuse of the elderly by their relatives or others in the community, social attitudes towards the elderly, as well as the intergenerational solidarity. The (2018-2027) Strategy for Improvement of the Status of the Elderly in the FBiH set out the general objective: Enhancing the quality of life of the elderly.

The FBiH is shifting towards a regressive type of age structure, where advanced aging becomes a dominant process. The population contingent over 65 is the fastest growing (or the sole growing one, as both young population and working age population record negative growth rates<sup>68</sup>) contingent in the FBiH. While the total population declined at the rate of -0.2% on average annually between 2013 and 2019, the over 65 population contingent grew by 20%, rising at an average annual rate of 3.1%, from 285,946 in 2013 to 343,020 in 2019. This resulted in an increased share of this contingent in the total population, from 12.9% to 15.7% over the same period.<sup>69</sup>

These processes are clearly captured by the population aging index<sup>70</sup>, which increased significantly in all cantons in the FBiH. The highest increase of the aging index in 2019 was recorded in the Posavina Canton, followed by the Canton 10, Tuzla and Central Bosnia cantons. If the share of the young and elderly population is equal, the value of the index equals 100. If the value of the index is over 0.40 (or 40%), it is considered that the given population has entered the process of aging. The value of this index points to the conclusion that the age of the FBiH population is (relatively) advanced.

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<sup>65</sup> Madrid International Plan of Action on Aging and the Political Declaration adopted at the Second World Assembly on Aging, in April 2002 in Madrid.

<sup>66</sup> „FBiH Official Gazette“ no. 1/94.

<sup>67</sup> Strategy for Mitigation of the Status of the Elderly in the FBiH was prepared with the financial and technical assistance of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the Embassy of Switzerland to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

<sup>68</sup> The 0-14 population contingent has recorded the negative rate of -0.5%, while the working age population contingent's rate of growth was -1.8% between 2013 and 2019.

<sup>69</sup> In 2018, the elderly (65 years old and over) constituted 19.7% of the population, which was 2.6 percentage point more than 10 years earlier. The country with the oldest population, i.e., the country with the greatest share of the elderly population were Italy and Greece, with 22.6% and 21.8%, respectively, while the lowest share of the elderly population was in Ireland – 13.8%. Source: EU [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Population\\_structure\\_and\\_ageing/hr](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Population_structure_and_ageing/hr)

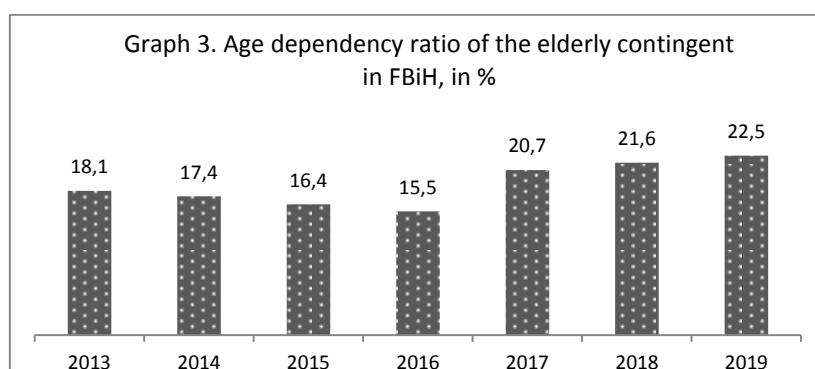
<sup>70</sup> The population aging index is a ratio of the population contingent over 65 and youth 0-15.

Table 27: Aging index

| Canton/Year         | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016 | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| Una-Sana            | 60.9  | 56.5  | 50.7  | 45.9 | 78.2  | 84.6  | 91.1  |
| Posavina            | 108.0 | 101.0 | 91.4  | 83.2 | 144.6 | 157.4 | 170.1 |
| Tuzla               | 77.1  | 71.3  | 63.8  | 57.2 | 95.5  | 101.8 | 107.5 |
| Zenica-Doboj        | 69.5  | 63.8  | 56.4  | 50.1 | 84.7  | 88.9  | 93.0  |
| Bosnia-Drina        | 117.6 | 105.1 | 90.6  | 79.4 | 126.1 | 129.1 | 134.2 |
| Central Bosnia      | 67.3  | 62.2  | 56.0  | 50.5 | 86.3  | 91.8  | 97.9  |
| Herzegovina-Neretva | 100.2 | 92.7  | 82.9  | 74.5 | 117.8 | 123.2 | 128.7 |
| West Herzegovina    | 86.1  | 80.0  | 72.5  | 66.4 | 103.6 | 109.1 | 114.2 |
| Sarajevo            | 91.3  | 83.0  | 72.6  | 63.8 | 101.1 | 103.5 | 106.2 |
| Canton 10           | 125.4 | 116.9 | 106.7 | 98.3 | 159.2 | 171.4 | 183.4 |
| FBiH                | 80.1  | 73.8  | 65.8  | 59.0 | 96.9  | 102.0 | 107.1 |

Source: adapted. Sarajevo Canton Development Planning Institute. Demographic Analysis of the Sarajevo Canton in the FBiH. 2013-2019. Sarajevo. April 2020

When analyzing age dependency ratios, it is noteworthy that this ratio has exceeded the youth dependency ratio in the past three years (see Table 3). In 2019, the highest ratios were recorded in the Canton 10 (29.8) and Bosnia-Drina Canton (28.2). Which indicates a significant long-term burden, as the population which is „exiting“ working age will not be sufficiently replaced by the population „entering“ working age, due to a smaller size of younger generations. At the same time, this generates considerable pressure on pension, healthcare, and social funds.



At the level of the Federation, it is evident that there is an increase age dependence ratio of the elderly contingent.<sup>71</sup>

### Poverty and pensions

The elderly are among the most vulnerable and sensitive categories in terms of social exclusion. The social protection system, their savings and assets are insufficient to guarantee adequate security to the elderly. All these circumstances make the elderly particularly vulnerable, economically insecure and at risk of poverty. The chances of sliding into poverty are particularly high for elderly women. The reason is the lack of contributions paid in towards the pension during their working age period. Namely, during their working age cycle, women often do not work as long, or they abandon their careers to bear and raise children. Also, the situation is further exacerbated by the high rate of unemployment among women. Even in many developed countries, it is more likely that elderly women living alone or in a household with one other person are in poverty than it is the case for

<sup>71</sup> In the EU, in 2018, the age dependency ratio of the elderly contingent was 30.5%, which means that there were slightly over three working age persons per each person aged 65 and over. The ratios were lowest in Luxembourg and Ireland, and highest in Italy, Greece, and Finland.

men<sup>72</sup>, and in many countries the sole source of revenue for elderly women is the family pension (funded by their husbands' pension contributions).

In persons over the age of 65, it is very difficult to track poverty. According to the 2015 Household Budget Survey, in 2015 in the FBiH around 23% of the population, or nearly one in four inhabitants, were absolutely poor. According to the same survey, the poverty rate varied with the age of household members. Of the population over 65 years of age, 18% were in absolute poverty, which accounts for 12% of total poverty in the FBiH. According to the same data segregated by gender, the highest rate of poverty in the FBiH was among women over 65, i.e., nearly one person in fifteen who was 65 or more and living alone in their own household were absolutely poor. The share of the category of the poor in the total number of the poor in the FBiH was 1%. Sixteen percent of all pensioners are absolutely poor, and they constitute 11% of all poor population in the FBiH.

The basic statistical indicators for pensions (such as the average and minimum pension), when compared to the poverty indicators according to the Household Budget Survey reveal that most elderly persons live below the poverty line. The risk of elderly poverty is particularly marked in countries with weak social systems, where social protection is weak or non-existent.

The process of reform of the pension system in the FBiH aims to improve the situation of the pensioners' population and to reduce the poverty risk for both current pensioners and those who will become beneficiaries of these rights in the coming years, as well as to achieve a greater adequacy of pensions and greater coverage of the over-65 population with pension insurance. Another objective is to ensure the long-term sustainability of the pension system, as well as increase effectiveness in the collection of contributions.

Pursuant to the Law on Pension and Disability Insurance, it is possible to qualify for a pension with 15 years of work experience with 65 years of age, which favors future pension insurance beneficiaries. However, there remains the problem of all those insurance beneficiaries who do not qualify for a pension and belong to a vulnerable category of employees, including those for whom employers pay none or irregular social insurance contributions, employees for whom employers pay only minimum contributions, workers on fixed-term and half-time contracts, self-employed, etc. It can be assumed that these categories will become the new poor and socially excluded persons in the future, which is even more likely since the FBiH has no guaranteed (national) pension for persons of a certain age, irrespective of their work status.<sup>73</sup>

The number of pensioners in the FBiH keeps rising. The total number of pensioners in December 2019 was 424,009, which was 9% more than in 2013. In 2013-2019, the number of pensioners increased at the average rate of 1.6%. In 2019, the elderly population (65+) accounted for around 15.7%, while pensioners were 19.4% of the total population of the FBiH.

In December 2019, the average pension was 416 BAM and it was 20% higher relative to December 2013.

Table 28: Pensioners, employees, amount of pensions and wages

| Elements                       | 2013    | 2014    | 2015    | 2016    | 2017    | 2018    | 2019    | Index<br>2019/2013 |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|
| Number of pensioners, end-year | 388,676 | 394,900 | 402,044 | 409,335 | 412,539 | 416,828 | 424,009 | 1.09               |
| Average pension, BAM           | 347     | 365     | 366     | 369     | 372     | 399     | 416     | 1.20               |

<sup>72</sup> UN Statistics Division (2015). The World's Women 2015: Trends and Statistics

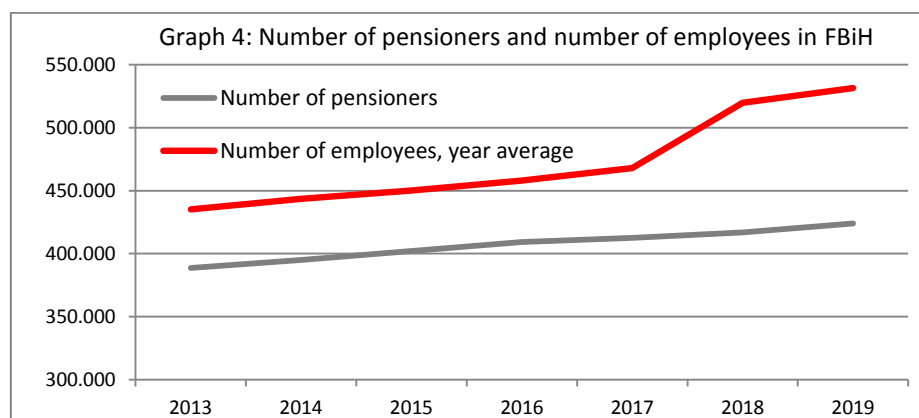
<sup>73</sup> This form of long-term social exclusion was recognized in the 2007 BiH NHDR, with the introduction of the long-term exclusion index HSEI-2, which views employees as a category that might descend into a state of social exclusion. For more details, see: UNDP, IBHI: 2007 Human Development Report – Social Inclusion in BiH, p. 183.

|                                  |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |      |
|----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|
| Average wage, BAM                | 835     | 847     | 846     | 861     | 875     | 914     | 928     | 1.11 |
| Number of employees              | 435,113 | 443,587 | 450,121 | 457,974 | 467,894 | 519,800 | 531,483 | 1.22 |
| Wage/pension ratio               | 2.41    | 2.32    | 2.31    | 2.33    | 2.35    | 2.29    | 2.23    | 0.92 |
| Ratio of employees to pensioners | 1.12    | 1.12    | 1.12    | 1.12    | 1.13    | 1.25    | 1.25    | 1.12 |

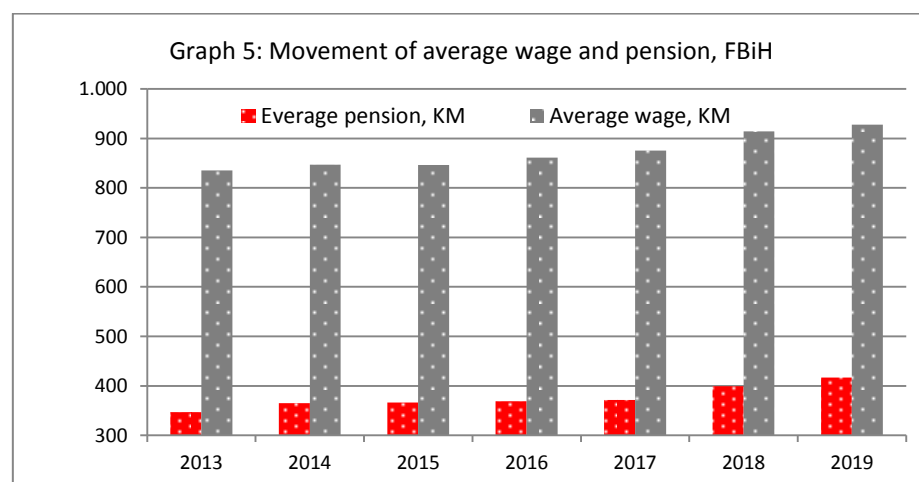
Source: Author's adaptation, on the basis of the FBiH Statistics Institute's employment and wage data and Pension and Disability Insurance Fund's data on pensioners and pensions.

The minimum pension of 371.77 BAM was paid to 210.048 beneficiaries, or 45% of the total number of pensioners, while the pensions ranging between the minimum and guaranteed pension, which was 465.87 BAM in December 2019, were paid to 52.813 pensioners. These two categories of pensioners account for 58.5% of all pensioners. Therefore, around 40% of pensioners receive a higher than the guaranteed pension.

The 2018 FBiH Development Report<sup>74</sup> stated that, in 2015, the share of total pensions paid to the GDP in the FBiH was 10%, which was somewhat lower than in the countries in the region (Croatia 10.7%, Slovenia 10.9%, Serbia 12.2%)



In 2019, the average wage was over 2.2 times higher than the average pension. This ratio was somewhat more favorable than in 2013, when the wage was 2.4 times higher than the average pension. This is a result of a somewhat higher rate of pension growth, on average 3.1% every year, while during this period wages rose 1.8% annually on average.



<sup>74</sup> FBiH Development Programming Institute: 2018 FBiH Development Report, Sarajevo, September 2019, p. 123

The ratio of the number of pensioners to the number of employees remains highly unfavorable and disconcerting. The number of employees in December 2019 was 531,483, making the ratio of the number of pensioners to the number of employees 1:1.25 (somewhat higher than in 2013), which gravely jeopardizes economic sustainability of the pension system, as the minimum ratio for sustainability of pension systems is 1:3.

The Law on Pension and Disability Insurance regulates eligibility for old-age, disability and family pensions, as well as for the benefit for physical disability. In 2019, most beneficiaries received old-age pensions – 236,317 pensioners (average pension amount was 457 BAM), disability pensions – 68,300 (average pension – 364 BAM), and family pensions – 119,392 (average amount – 366 BAM). The total amount of pensions disbursed was 185,645,961 BAM.

The Law on Elective Pension Funds in the FBiH was adopted in December 2016, and its adoption was part of the Action Plan for implementation of the Pension Insurance Reform Strategy. The principles underpinning these funds are voluntary membership, dispersion of investment risk, equality of members, transparency of operations, accumulation and investing of resources. This law laid the legal foundations for future development of the pension system in the FBiH and of capital markets, where new types of funds, different in the investing style and criteria, will emerge.

### Caring for the elderly – Social protection

In the FBiH there is no integrated policy on the elderly that would promote a better quality of life for this category of the population in economic, social, health and cultural terms. The basic sources of rights of the elderly are found in the laws on pension and disability insurance, social protection, healthcare and health insurance, and partly in family legislation, with a relatively low level of inter-sectoral cooperation and coordination.

Protection of the elderly in the FBiH is governed by the entity Law on the Foundations of Social Protection, Protection of Civilian Victims of War, and Protection of Families with Children and related cantonal laws. The rights of the elderly in the domain of social protection include

- *cash benefits* (cash allowance, carer's allowance, disability living allowance, housing benefit, fuel/electricity/food allowance, etc.)
- *social services* (accommodation services – institutional and non-institutional care (family accommodation), daytime care in daycare centers and/or clubs for the elderly, social and other professional services, home help)

The above rights are accessed through local centers for social work and through public, non-governmental and private social protection institutions for institutional care for the elderly.

The social protection rights are funded from cantonal and municipal budgets, with the exception of certain rights of persons with diminished physical capacity and civilian victims of war, which are funded on the FBiH level. Social protection on the elderly on the cantonal level is accessed by qualifying for permanent cash benefit, carer's allowance, one-time cash benefit, accommodation in social protection institutions and housing allowance.

The total number of adult beneficiaries of accommodation in social protection institutions in 2019 increased by 84%, from 2,032 beneficiaries in 2013 to 4,201 in 2019. Within this group, the number of residents over 65 years of age rose from 1,963 in 2013 to 3,331 in 2019 (around 70%). Most frequent reasons for placing the elderly in social protection institutions for elderly adults are various (mental difficulties, more severe chronic disorders, diminished physical capacity, inadequate housing situation, disrupted family relations), while for 47% of beneficiaries it was just age that was listed as the reason for placement in institutional care. Beneficiaries of housing in social protection

institutions for the elderly for the most part cover housing costs independently, while centers of social work cover all or part of the costs for some.

In 2019, in the FBiH there were 63 social protection institutions for the elderly<sup>75</sup>, which was a considerable expansion relative to the number of institutions in 2013 (35). The existing institutions for caring for the elderly, sick and bedridden are for the most part found in urban areas, while rural and underdeveloped areas are marginalized or undercapacitated in this regard.

The lack of capacity is reflected in the shortage of housing units, but also in the inadequate education of the staff for work with persons with these types of disorders. The lack of gerontologists contributes to the general lack of research into health dimension of the living conditions of the elderly, and of their influence on their state of health/course of disease.<sup>76</sup>

For larger families, living costs per household member are (relatively) not high, but they increase considerably for singles' households, and we take into account the trends of independent living of the elderly, the cost in such households per one elderly person are extremely high relative to their total incomes. This occurs particularly frequently in rural areas, where incomes per household member are significantly lower than in urban areas.

The studies that covered both developed and developing countries showed that the elderly who live on their own more often feel lonely and depressed, have poor social network and irregular contacts with children, and more frequently move to an institution when their health deteriorates than those who live in multigenerational families. Aging also leads to multiplication of discrimination, as the elderly become susceptible to discrimination on various grounds.

Women in rural areas, as a separate social category, experience discrimination in multiple forms. There is little concrete information to depict social and economic situation of rural women, and their status and role have not been subject to social studies. Women in rural areas are in a very difficult position and are frequently among the poorest categories in a population of a given country, while their financial security most often exclusively depends on the man of the family.

### Lifelong learning and community involvement

Aptitude to broaden understanding and create preconditions for lifelong learning contributes to preservation and development of mental health of the elderly, opens opportunities for generation of additional income and inspires activism and volunteering. Lifelong learning opportunities in the FBiH are slight and mostly restricted to urban communities.

Pursuant to the FBiH Constitution, the responsibility for setting education policy, including regulating education and providing education in the FBiH lies with the cantons (i.e., with the ministries of education). In parallel, the Federation Ministry of Education and Science performs administrative, specialist, and other tasks related to coordination of planning and for educational activities for which 5-6 million BAM is earmarked in the annual budget. Part of these funds is set aside for grants for educational projects, mainly for capital investment. To date, no investment have been made into lifelong learning projects for the elderly.

The BiH Council of Ministers adopted the 2014-2020 Strategic Platform for Development of Adult Education in the Context of Lifelong Learning in BiH, which permits cantonal governments to get involved in improving the position of the elderly through lifelong learning projects. Non-existence of the appropriate infrastructure is one of the major problems affecting the prospects for lifelong learning, although the problem of a lack of information and interest of the elderly (particularly in

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<sup>75</sup> FBiH Statistics Institute, Statistical Bulletin on Social Protection, 2019

<sup>76</sup> The Sarajevo Gerontology Center is unable to fully implement all its activities because of the lack of resources.

rural areas) for learning activities, as well as a deficit of social skills necessary for learning in the community.

A scarcity of activities in which the elderly could take part was detected in local communities. The activities that had previously been available to the elderly through local community offices or pensioners' clubs are becoming less accessible, while there are positive examples of assistance to the elderly, whether through healthy aging centers established in the municipalities of Novo Sarajevo, Sarajevo-Centar and Domaljevac-Šamac, or through centers for home care and help for the elderly, sick and bedridden founded in Tuzla and Lukavac.

The lack of society's attention to the rights of the elderly is evident, because they often have no influence on the political and social life, which is one of possible reasons for their rather pervasive neglect and deprivation of human rights. Universality, indivisibility and interlinking of human rights compel the state and the entities to guarantee their full enjoyment without discrimination.

Adequacy of pensions and sustainability of the pension system, along with job growth, constitute important factors of sustainable development. Social protection of the population requires new forms of reliance on intergenerational solidarity in terms of retirement planning.

Because of general improvement of living standards and progress of medicine, the elderly population will live longer, which means that the average duration of life in the third age will be extended. The elderly should have clearer and better incentives, opportunities and conditions to continue working, but they also need to improve their employability, skills and expertise independently, through lifelong learning and education. As numerous studies showed that the population of both BiH and FBiH will continue to shrink, and life expectancy will rise, new forms are necessary for sustainable development that would permit better quality of life for third-age persons. Therefore it is necessary to channel new forms of social responsibility into activation and social inclusion of the older generation, into valuation of their knowledge acquired through experience, which constitutes invaluable social capital.

It is essential to abandon the preconceptions of the elderly as the beneficiaries of the rights from the pension, healthcare, and social protection systems, which emphasizes their costs. The focus should be placed on perceiving the older generation as a resource to improve the capacities in the community.

## 11. Persons with disabilities

Every human being has innate, equal, inalienable and universal rights that emanate from human dignity. This is a fundamental principle of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), United Nations' Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006), as well as other conventions, international instruments and instruments of the European Union.<sup>77</sup>

The Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, constitutions of the FBiH and of the Republika Srpska, as well as the Statute of the District Brčko of Bosnia and Herzegovina, guarantee the highest level of

<sup>77</sup> The most significant EU instruments are: European Convention for Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (Council of Europe. ETS 5, in force since 1953), European Social Charter (Council of Europe. ETS 163), Council of Europe Action Plan for Promotion of Rights and Full Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Society: [Improving the Quality of Life of People with Disabilities in Europe 2006-2015](#) (Council of Europe. Rec(2006), Draft Council of Europe Strategy for Disability 2016-2021, European Union Charter on Fundamental Rights, European Union Disability Strategy 2010-2020 – adopted on 15th November 2010).

internationally recognized human rights. Bosnia and Herzegovina is additionally bound by her aspiration to join the European Union, and in the process of EU accession BiH and its entities are required to harmonize all systems with European standards. The membership in the European Union is conditioned by adoption of antidiscriminatory legislation and on its full harmonization with the EU acquis, as well as with its application in practice. This includes a requirement to harmonize existing regulations related to disability, as well as adherence to nondiscrimination.

With the adoption of the document Disability Policy in BiH („BiH Official Gazette“ no. 76/08) in 2008, Bosnia and Herzegovina opted for the new approach to disability, based on human rights and the social model, which represents a comprehensive perspective on disability issues, creation and application of solutions for persons with disabilities on community level on the basis of a multisectoral approach and with participation of all stakeholders.

Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination in 2009, and its amendments were passed in 2016. The amendments were passed to create a more effective mechanism to prevent discrimination, but also to continue the process of legislative harmonization with the European acquis. This law created a legal framework for all persons in BiH to exercise of equal rights and opportunities, and it regulated the system of protection against discrimination.

The entity governments and all levels of government are required to adopt implementing instruments for the Disability Policy in BiH. To this end, on 15 October 2009, the FBiH Government adopted the 2011-2015 Strategy for Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in the FBiH. The above strategy was the first implementing document of the new approach in the domain of disability in the FBiH which was harmonized with the major international and European instruments in the area of disability, as well as with the Policy itself. Following the implementation period, the FBiH adopted the new 2016-2021 Strategy for Promotion of Rights and Improvement of the Situation of Persons with Disabilities in the FBiH.

In September 2019, the FBiH Parliament's House of Representatives also adopted the Draft Law on Organizations and Representative Organizations of Persons with Disabilities and Civilian Victims of War. This law governs the procedure and conditions for qualifying for the status of organizations of persons with disabilities and civilian victims of war.

### Statistical data on persons with disabilities

As many as 10% of the inhabitants of Bosnia and Herzegovina are estimated to suffer from physical, sensory, developmental, mental or emotional forms of disability, while 30% of the total population are directly or indirectly affected by some aspect of disability. Besides, most such persons are also subject to isolation and unnecessary suffering because of stereotypes and oldfashioned practices. Women and girls with disabilities face the risk of multiple discrimination. Poverty and unemployment affect persons with disabilities the most, and even those who have jobs are most often paid the minimum wage. Nearly two-thirds of the total number of adults with disabilities live near or below the official poverty line. Considerable social, educational, economic, physical, and transport barriers prevent most persons with disabilities from enjoyment of their fundamental rights.<sup>78</sup>

According to the 2013 Census data, in the FBiH there were 8.2% of population with disabilities, of whom 44.9% were men, and 55.1% women.

Table 29: Population by disability status and gender. 2013 Census

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<sup>78</sup> BiH Council of Ministers: Disability Policy in BiH, 2008, p. 1

| Gender | Total     | Persons with disabilities | Persons without disabilities | Status unknown |
|--------|-----------|---------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Total  | 2,219,220 | 181,927                   | 2,006,095                    | 31,198         |
| Male   | 1,087,993 | 81,695                    | 990,795                      | 15,503         |
| Female | 1,131,227 | 100,232                   | 1,015,300                    | 15,695         |

Source: 2013 Census

An overview of persons with disabilities by type of disability is shown in the following table.

Table 30: Persons with disabilities, by type of disability, age and gender, 2013 Census

| Gender | Age         | Total   | Type of disability |         |                                   |                              |           |               | Population with multiple disabilities |
|--------|-------------|---------|--------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
|        |             |         | Seeing             | Hearing | Walking or climbing up the stairs | Remembering or concentration | Self-care | Communication |                                       |
| Total  | Total       | 181,927 | 32,046             | 12,706  | 60,618                            | 5,724                        | 956       | 1,721         | 68,156                                |
| Total  | Under 15    | 3,186   | 762                | 167     | 490                               | 136                          | 115       | 215           | 1,301                                 |
| Total  | 65 and more | 85,893  | 11,433             | 7,013   | 26,029                            | 1,677                        | 337       | 353           | 39,051                                |
| Male   | Under 15    | 1,824   | 407                | 94      | 271                               | 84                           | 72        | 142           | 754                                   |
| Female | Under 16    | 1,362   | 355                | 73      | 219                               | 52                           | 43        | 73            | 547                                   |
| Male   | 65 and more | 29,775  | 4,421              | 3,624   | 7,759                             | 626                          | 148       | 225           | 12,972                                |
| Female | 65 and more | 56,118  | 7,012              | 3,389   | 18,270                            | 1,051                        | 189       | 128           | 26,079                                |

Source: 2013 Census

Most of these persons have difficulties walking – 33.3%. By age group, persons over 65 are most represented – over 47% - in the total number of inhabitants with difficulties.

The official statistics, within the framework of the system of social protection, tracks social protection beneficiaries with disorders in psychological and physical development. In 2019, there were 18 social protection institutions for adults with disabilities in the FBiH. Social protection for persons with disabilities is chiefly based on cash benefits and placement in care institutions.

Table31: Social protection beneficiaries with psychological and physical development disorders

|                     | 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   | 2019   |
|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Minors              | 8,559  | 8,927  | 8,986  | 9,004  | 8,342  | 7,425  | 8,134  |
| Adults              | 27,073 | 27,567 | 26,620 | 28,423 | 26,435 | 28,843 | 26,839 |
| Total beneficiaries | 35,632 | 36,494 | 35,606 | 37,427 | 34,777 | 36,268 | 34,973 |

Source: FBiH Statistics. Institute; Social Protection bulletins 2013-2019. author's adaptation

During this period, the number of social protection beneficiaries with psychological and physical development disorders declined. In 2019, there were 34,973 social protection beneficiaries with psychological and physical disorders. Of this number, adult beneficiaries were the largest group. with the share of over 76%.

In 2019, among underage beneficiaries, the most numerous were those with psychological development disorders (severe, harsh, moderate, mild, and uncategorized) – 2,673, while among adult beneficiaries, the most numerous were beneficiaries with physical disabilities and lasting physical development disorder - 10,028.

## Social protection system

The social protection system which should ensure protection of vulnerable categories is characterized by systemic discrimination of persons with disabilities on the grounds of origin, i.e., cause of disability. Pursuant to the current legislation, persons with disabilities are divided in three groups/categories: disabled war veterans, disabled civilian victims of war and non-war-related/civilian persons with disabilities, whose range of rights and level of benefits vary, and discrimination is present in the level of benefits, eligibility criteria, and in administration of social protection. The social protection system provides two additional types of support for persons with disabilities: institutional care and placement in alternative family homes. Various types of social services (daycare centers, personal assistants, psychosocial support for young people with developmental disorders, assisted living, etc.) are being developed on the local community level.<sup>79</sup>

The system of social protection and support for persons with disabilities is also characterized by a high degree of legislative and institutional fragmentation. Numerous laws govern the rights of persons with disabilities on the level of the FBiH: Law on the Foundations of Social Protection, Protection of Civilian Victims of War and Protection of Families with Children; Labor Law; Law on Pension and Disability Insurance; Law on the Rights of Veterans and Members of Their Families, Law on Extraordinary Rights of Recipients of Honors and Medals and Members of Their Families.

There are still no adequate institutional capacities for matters of persons with disabilities nor structures for social inclusion of persons with disabilities on all levels of government. There is no systematic tracking of persons with disabilities that would allow monitoring of the degree of poverty and social inclusion.

In proportion with the degree of their disability, persons with disabilities are eligible for personal cash allowance, carer's allowance, orthopedic allowance, family allowance, and orthopedic aid allowance. The rights of persons with 100% or 90% of physical disability are funded from the FBiH budget, and the cantons have the duty to fund the provision of rights for persons with disabilities with lower degrees of physical disability who are eligible for carer's allowance.

Civilian victims of war are eligible for personal allowance or a monthly personal cash benefit, carer's allowance, orthopedic allowance, family allowance and allowance for medical costs and orthopedic aids. Eligibility for these allowances is governed by the FBiH laws, while eligibility for job skills training (professional rehabilitation, retraining and upskilling), priority employment, priority housing, psychological and legal aid are governed by cantonal regulations. The rights of civilian victims of war are funded from the FBiH and cantonal budget in the proportion 70:30, while the rights in the domain of protection of war veterans, i.e., rights of disabled war veterans and families of fallen soldiers are funded from the FBiH budget. The FBiH Budget also covers the benefits for disabled war veterans whose entitlement predates the war, in accordance with the Law on Basic Rights of Disabled War Veterans and Families of Fallen Soldiers.<sup>80</sup>

Besides civilian persons with disability and civilian victims of war, in BiH there is also a category of disabled war veterans. Civilian victims of war and civilian persons with disability are nominally eligible for the same rights as disabled war veterans. The essential difference is in the scope of coverage of beneficiaries and benefit levels, which represents a particular type of discrimination.

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<sup>79</sup> FBiH Development Programming Institute: Social Policies, Working materials for preparation of the 2021-2027 FBiH Development Strategy.

<sup>80</sup> Protection of veterans and disabled veterans refers to the rights of disabled war veterans and members of their families, members of the families of fallen soldiers, deceased and missing defenders and demobilized defenders, and persons who provided outstanding contributions in the defensive and liberation war. The rights in this area include orthopedic allowance, one-time treatment assistance, personal disability allowance, carer's allowance, family allowance, one-time benefit in the event of death and lump sum payment for funerals.

Persons with the same type and highest degree of disability eligible for disability allowance receive different levels of benefits depending on the category they belong to, although their needs are virtually the same.

Namely, in qualification for social protection rights for persons with disabilities in the FBiH there is no discrimination on the basis of age, ethnicity, gender or race, but there is clear discrimination of persons with disabilities on the basis of the cause of disability in terms of the scope and level of exercised rights.<sup>81</sup>

In assessing disability, the medical model and the old (discriminatory) rule books for assessment of the degree of disability are still used, instead of the social model, which would be the logical sequence of steps in accordance with the definition of disability. This produces different assessments, opinions and findings of medical boards of the Medical Health Assessment Institute, which are particularly evident in the case of eligibility for the carer's allowance.

By the end of 2019, 48,258 persons with (non-war-related) disability qualified for cash benefits, which was slightly more relative to the year before, and the FBiH budget expended 139,347,511.20 BAM to fund these rights. Despite the modest increase in the most recent year, over the 2013-2019 period, the number of persons with (non-war-related) disability declined at an average rate of 1.5%.

In 2019, 9,211 beneficiaries qualified for benefits as civilian victims of war, which was 2.4% less than in 2018. The average rate of change in the number of these beneficiaries was -2% in the 2013-2019 period. A total of 34.87 million BAM was disbursed to fund the rights of civilian victims of war beneficiaries, of which 24.67 million BAM was set aside from the FBiH budget, which accounted for 70% of allocations for this category, while the remaining 30% was earmarked in the respective cantonal budget pursuant to the applicable law.

As of 31 December 2019, the total number of beneficiaries of veterans disability allowances based on the rights from the Law on the Rights of Veterans and Members of Their Families was 84,887, with 45,500 beneficiaries receiving personal allowances, and 37,387 collecting family allowances (FBiH Ministry of Veterans and Disabled Veterans, 2020). In the 2013-2019 period, the number of beneficiaries of war veterans' disability allowances was decreasing at the rate of 1.9%.

In 2019, a total of 274.54 million BAM was disbursed for these purposes. The decline in the number of beneficiaries was reflected in lower disbursements, with the 2019 disbursements being 3,061,394.05 BAM lower than the approved budget allocation.

Table 32: Disbursements for disability allowances from the FBiH Budget, 2013-2019

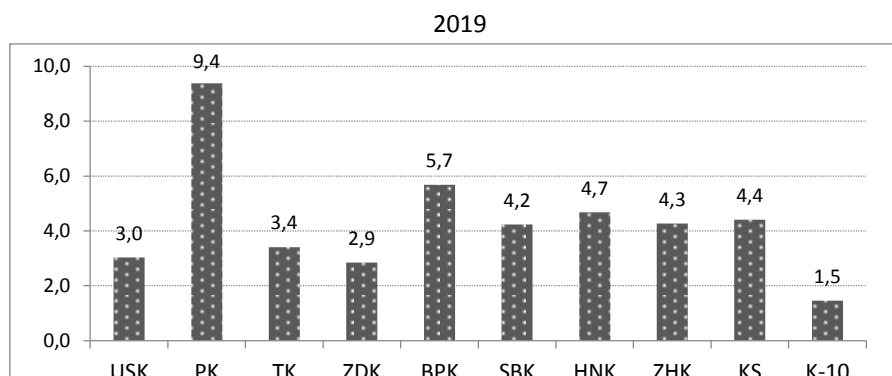
|                                                             | 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   | 2019   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Disbursements for non-war-related disabilities, BAM million | 112.00 | 119.44 | 133.23 | 137.72 | 139.65 | 139.77 | 139.48 |
| Disbursements for civilian victims of war, BAM million      | 27.58  | 26.82  | 26.42  | 25.98  | 25.41  | 25.13  | 24.64  |
| Disbursements for disabled veterans, BAM million            | 307.8  | 302.95 | 294.34 | 288.39 | 281.63 | 279.52 | 274.54 |
| Total for disability allowances, BAM million                | 447.39 | 449.21 | 453.99 | 452.09 | 446.69 | 444.42 | 438.56 |
| Total disability allowances, GDP %                          | 2.66   | 2.54   | 2.43   | 2.31   | 2.15   | 2.003  | 1.90   |

Source: FBiH Development Programming Institute. 2019 Development Report. working material

<sup>81</sup> On discrimination of PWD in terms of cause of disability, and on the differences in the level of benefits, see SIF in BiH, Elvira Bešlija, SIF Legal Expert in BiH: Analysis of the Systemic Discrimination of Persons with Disabilities on the Basis of Cause of Disability between War and Non-War-Related PWD, Sarajevo, November 2016.

The highest number of beneficiaries of personal and family allowances per 100 inhabitants was recorded in the Posavina Canton (9 beneficiaries), while the lowest number was in the Canton 10 (1 beneficiary per 100 inhabitants) (the FBiH Ministry of War Veterans and Disabled Veterans. 2020, adapted by the FBiH Development Programming Institute).

Graph 6: Number of beneficiaries of personal and family disability allowances per 100 inhabitants, by canton.



In 2019, disbursements for non-war-related disability allowances, civilian victims of war and veterans were equal to 0.6%, 0.11%, and 1.19% of the FBiH GDP, respectively.

The total allocation from the FBiH budget in 2019 for war, non-war-related and civilian victims of war allowances were 438.56 million BAM, which was 1.32% less relative to 2018. In the 2013-2019 period, the relative share of these disbursements in the GDP was shrinking (due to the growth of the GDP), and in 2019 they cumulatively accounted for 1.9% of the GDP.

### Activation in the labor market

Pursuant to the European Union Employment Directive, particular attention needs to be paid to employment of marginalized and hardly employable categories. Persons with disabilities remain particularly discriminated in the labor market since, despite the funding allocations for active employment policies, they do not have universal physical access to the workplace due to lack of adaptation of infrastructure (pavements, public transportation, various buildings and public institutions). A shortage of jobs that would absorb the labor supply remains one of the major challenges. The Law on Professional Rehabilitation, Training and Employment of Persons with Disabilities in the FBiH from February 2010 constitutes the legal framework which for the first time systematically and in a focused manner addressed the issue of the working status of persons with disabilities and of the obligations of the FBiH towards these categories.<sup>82</sup>

Pursuant to this law, persons with disabilities are employed and act in the labor market under general and special conditions. Under the general conditions, persons with disabilities are employed on the open labor market, in government, judicial and local government bodies, public agencies, institutions, funds, public corporations, companies and other legal persons that have not been created for the purpose to employ persons with disabilities in accordance to this law. Under special conditions persons with disabilities are employed in institutions and companies explicitly established to employ persons with disabilities. The implementation of the Law represents a concrete and systemic application of the new inclusive relationship of the social community towards persons with

<sup>82</sup> The Law specified the measures and activities that constitute professional rehabilitation and the concept of professional rehabilitation. In Art. 7 of the Law it is particularly specified that persons with disabilities contribute to their professional rehabilitation and employment, among others by „education and professional training, depending on their opportunities, predispositions and abilities“ (para 1), „by accepting offers for changing jobs, or for reassignment to other appropriate tasks due to the cessation of needs or to inability to perform original tasks“ (para 5), and „by professional training at work, and by upskilling and reskilling, as needed, to keep their jobs“ (para 6).

disabilities in this area, all in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

According to the data of the FBiH Statistics Institute, in 2019 social protection services were: assistance for training and employment; training for work and employment, assistance for rehabilitation, integration into jobs, integration into other forms (cottage industry, etc.). In 2019, 902 persons received assistance for training and employment (29 minors and 873 adults). This was 411 persons more (83%) relative to 2014, when 491 persons received assistance for training and employment.

Table 33: Social protection services – assistance for training and employment

| Service beneficiaries | Minors |                                            | Adults |                                            |
|-----------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------|
|                       | Total  | Persons with mental and physical disorders | Total  | Persons with mental and physical disorders |
| 2014                  | 94     | 69                                         | 397    | 110                                        |
| 2019                  | 29     | 3                                          | 873    | 676                                        |

Source: FBiH Statistics Institute. Social Protection Bulletins for 2019 and 2014. adaptation by the author

In addition, according to the statistical records. 244 disabled persons and rehabilitants. of whom 229 in sheltered workshops and 15 working from home. Of the total number of employed, 39.3% were women.

Table 34: Employed persons with disabilities

|      | Total employed | Employed women | In sheltered workshops | Work from home |
|------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|
| 2014 | 107            | 39             | 109                    | 1              |
| 2019 | 244            | 96             | 229                    | 15             |

Source: FBiH Statistics Institute. Social Protection Bulletins for 2019 and 2014. adaptation by the author

Relative to 2014. employment of disabled persons was 128% greater.

### Fund for Professional Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities

The Fund for Professional Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities was created on the basis of the Law on Professional Rehabilitation, Training and Employment of Persons with Disabilities and in line with the obligations the State of BiH assumed from the United Nations Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities. The fund was created as a public institution with the primary task to provide financial support in professional rehabilitation and employment and professional reskilling of persons with disabilities, in line with the possibilities and needs of fund beneficiaries and the labor market. The fund's revenues are regulated by Art. 59 of the Law, which stipulates that the fund's revenues are provided from the FBiH budget.

Since its establishment, the Fund for Professional Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities, as an institution that is directly responsible for implementation of the policies of employment, rehabilitation and social inclusion of persons with disabilities, created a considerable impact in its core field of institutional activity. This is demonstrated by direct results: in the period since its creation, 4,744 persons with disabilities have been employed, 11,844 persons with disabilities were included in the professional rehabilitation programs, there are 2,418 successfully implemented programs, while 3,000 employed persons with disabilities regularly exercise their right to cash benefits and wage subsidies.<sup>83</sup>

<sup>83</sup> Source: <https://fond.ba/#>

## 2016-2021 Strategy to Advance Rights and Improve the Situation of Persons with Disabilities.<sup>84</sup>

The Strategy's Overall Objective was defined on the basis of a long-term and comprehensive vision, but with results expected during a pre-defined strategic period, and which planned the following: „Advance the rights and situation of persons with disabilities to enable their inclusion and participation in all segments of society on an equal basis with others, with the highest possible level of independence and freedom of choice, in line with adopted international standards.“

The strategic objectives were defined for specific issues that determine the situation of persons with disabilities in society, and which require appropriate actions to attain the Strategy's Overall Objective. These are the following concrete issues that determine the situation of persons with disabilities in society, consequences of disability and their quality of life: equality and non-discrimination through laws, accessibility of environment, information and communications, integration into all social processes, prevention and early intervention, accessibility of support services, employment and rehabilitation, prevention from violence and exploitation, raising public awareness and transcending prejudices and stereotypes, as well as strengthening capacity of organizations of persons with disabilities.<sup>85</sup>

A special body was created to monitor and evaluate the Strategy and to report on its implementation. It was proposed that cantonal governments should adopt their action plans for its implementation within six months of the Strategy's adoption, taking into account priority issues and needs of persons with disabilities in their local communities. From the standpoint of the objectives of this document, which is based on the new approach to development and which above all strives for activation of socially excluded persons in the labor market, the objectives related to education, employment and self-employment are crucial, and particularly the objective related to raising public awareness on the problems of persons with disabilities.

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<sup>84</sup> The strategy is available at the following website:

[http://www.fbihvlada.gov.ba/file/Strategija%20za%20unapre%C4%91enje%20prava%20i%20polo%C5%BEaja%20osoba%20s%20invaliditetom%20u%20Federaciji%20Bosne%20i%20Hercegovine%20\(2016.-2021.\)%20.pdf](http://www.fbihvlada.gov.ba/file/Strategija%20za%20unapre%C4%91enje%20prava%20i%20polo%C5%BEaja%20osoba%20s%20invaliditetom%20u%20Federaciji%20Bosne%20i%20Hercegovine%20(2016.-2021.)%20.pdf)

<sup>85</sup> For more details, see ibidem.

Persons with disabilities represent the most vulnerable, excluded, and marginalized group in the society of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Difficulties and obstacles which this population faces on the daily basis range from meeting the basic existential needs to the right to movement, education, and work. According to the 2013 Census data, 8.2% of the FBiH population were persons with disabilities, of whom 44.9% were men and 55.1% women. In terms of exercising social protection rights of persons with disabilities in the FBiH, it is evident that there is discrimination against persons with disabilities on the basis of the cause of disability in terms of the range and level of benefits of the exercised rights.

The total allocation from the FBiH budget in 2019 for war, non-war-related and civilian victims of war allowances were 438.56 million BAM, which was 1.9% of the GDP.

Since the creation of the Fund for Professional Orientation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities, 4,744 persons with disabilities were employed, 11,844 were included in professional rehabilitation programs, there were 2,418 successfully implemented programs, and 3,000 employed persons with disabilities regularly exercise their right to cash benefits and wage subsidies. The Strategy for Advancement of Rights and Improvement of the Situation of Persons with Disabilities in the FBiH is a key document which permits exercise of the rights and improvement of the situation of persons with disabilities to enable their inclusion and participation in all segments of society on an equal basis with others, with the highest possible level of independence and freedom of choice.

## 12. Social protection – forms of support for marginalized groups

Social rights are some of the fundamental human rights and have the main role in preserving human dignity for all persons, and a major role in poverty reduction, fighting discrimination and prevention of social exclusion. They should serve to protect particularly vulnerable and marginalized groups and individuals that find themselves in a state of social need because of disease, old age, unemployment, motherhood, disability, insufficient family support, particularly in the case of children. For this reason these rights are recognized as such in numerous international human rights protection instruments.

### Social protection in BiH

Bosnia and Herzegovina ratified a large number of international instruments<sup>86</sup> that guarantee social and economic rights, while the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the entity constitutions, include special provisions that cite international human rights protection instruments.

Social protection rights serve to assist those whose incomes are below a certain minimum, by offering them set cash benefits that make their lives easier. This right allows citizens who face such difficulties to live with greater dignity, along with the knowledge that the state cares for their needs.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has no competences, nor an established system of social protection on the level of the state, nor are there regulations that define the functions and establish a framework of

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<sup>86</sup> The most significant being: International Treaty on Economic, Social, And Cultural Rights (1966), Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a declaration adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, European Convention on Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1949) is a legal instrument of the Council of Europe on protection of freedoms and rights, European Social Charter is a basic instrument of the Council of Europe on social rights, etc.

social protection in BiH. The BiH Constitution stipulates that social protection is a responsibility of the entities.

On its transition path towards the European Union membership, BiH faces major challenges of harmonization of its legislation with the EU acquis. Quite a few strategic documents have been generated in the last ten or more years to make significant advances towards a better standard in the area of social protection of the population. Numerous grave social challenges must be addressed through improved systems of social protection and social inclusion, legislative amendments, development of a single register of beneficiaries of social benefits and equalization of the levels of the rights of the same type for different categories of persons with disabilities to improve targeting of social transfers. Besides, a comprehensive set of social protection indicators, which would be equivalent to the EU, has not yet been defined in BiH and the FBiH. The BiH Agency for Statistics publishes thematic social protection bulletins. Labor force surveys should also track the category of working poor (minimum and low wages or long periods of unpaid work).

Social protection system was organized on the level of cantons in the FBiH and municipalities in the RS, and as such it is extremely bureaucratized, fragmented, and inefficient. Absence of a state-level legal framework, combined with the disharmony of entity laws that govern this area result in exclusion of certain categories of the population from the system of protection and in discrimination.

#### Social protection system in the FBiH

The high degree of decentralization of the FBiH implies that development and implementation of social policies and measures involves the FBiH, cantons, and municipalities. The FBiH level of government is in charge of setting social policy and enacting legislation, while the cantons and municipalities are responsible for enactment of cantonal regulations, implementation of agreed socio-political measures and establishment of social protection services. Responsible bodies of the ten cantons in the FBiH adopt legislation to define procedures for exercise the rights from the framework law, criteria for exercising these rights, levels of cash benefits, modalities of funding social protection and competences in administration of social protection rights. Municipalities set aside considerable funds for social transfers in accordance with established needs of their respective populations. There are differences between municipalities in terms of levels of these allocations and their purposes, which primarily depends on the size of the municipal budget and the needs of the population.

Social protection rights are stipulated in the FBiH law, which is an umbrella law, and cantonal laws on social protection, protection of civilian victims of war and protection of families with children (hereinafter the FBiH Law<sup>87</sup>). However, not all cantons enacted corresponding laws of their own, or they passed laws that cover only one segment of the rights, specifically the rights to social protection, while other rights, such as the rights of families with children and rights of civilian victims of war are not covered by cantonal laws (in the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, Posavina Canton, and Canton 10). The Herzegovina-Neretva Canon adopted a special law which governs the benefits of families with children in the field of social protection, while in the Canton 10 and Posavina Canton these benefits are regulated by cantonal government decrees. While the Law on Social Protection of the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton contains a stipulation that the FBiH Law applies to all social protection issues that are not regulate by the cantonal social protection law, this is not applied in

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<sup>87</sup> The Law on the Foundations of Social Protection, Protection of Civilian Victims of War and Protection fo Families with Children („FBiH Official Gazette“, no. 36/99, 54/04, 39/06, 14/09, and 45/16). The issues related to protection of civilian victims of war and families with children are covered in the sections of this analysis that deal with persons with disabilities and children.

practice. The cantons may expand the scope of these rights, but may not set them below the minimum stipulated by the FBiH Law. Pursuant to the law, the competent FBiH Ministry is supposed to monitor enforcement of these laws, continuously work with cantonal ministries on the development of social protection regulations, and track harmonization and implementation of the FBiH Law on the cantonal level, but this does not occur in practice with sufficient regularity.

Therefore, regulation of the modalities of exercising the rights stipulated by the FBiH Law are effectively left to the discretion of the cantons, and the degree to which citizens are able to exercise their rights to social protection also depends on the economic power of each canton. This state of affairs is one of the main reasons for the legal chaos in this highly important field and for discrimination of beneficiaries on the basis of their place of residence.

## Social protection

Social protection is an organized activity in the FBiH and cantons designed to ensure social security of citizens and their families in a state of social need, manifested as a lasting or temporary situation of an individual or a family caused by war, natural disaster, economic situation, psychological or physical state of the individual, or other causes that may not be remedied without assistance of the community.

Social protection is a concept defined by current legislation and it encompasses all measures serving to protect vulnerable groups. Programs and measures of social protection as an organized activity provide for care for vulnerable individuals and groups, contain and remedy causes and states of social need, or secure necessary assistance for citizens so they can overcome their life problems and meet their basic existential needs. In a narrower sense, individual social protection refers to meeting the needs of vulnerable citizens (children and youth, elderly, persons with disabilities, etc.). The goal of social protection is to ensure protection of families, individuals, children at risk and persons in a state of social need or social exclusion.<sup>88</sup>

Social protection agencies lack both capacity to assess the needs of vulnerable groups and funding to provide adequate support.<sup>89</sup> Eligibility for social protection rights is mainly based on status, which creates inequalities in allocation of social benefits.

Taking into account that the current social protection systems are inefficient and unfair, a reform of the framework system of social protection has been launched in the FBiH through amendments to the existing legislation, specifically: Law on the Foundations of Social Protection, Law on Protection of Families and Children, Law on Fostering, Law on the Field of Social Work, and Law on Social Services. These activities regulated the field of social protection in terms of elimination of inequalities in coverage and levels of assistance to the system's beneficiaries. During 2020, the FBiH Government adopted the draft Law on Support to Families with Children in the FBiH and draft Law on Changes and Amendments to the Law on Foundations of Social Protection, Protection of Civilian Victims of War, and Protection of Families with Children, which were submitted for public consultation on 1 July 2020. Following the conclusion of the public debate, the FBiH Ministry of Labor and Social Policy will draft the amendments to this law and submit them to the Parliament for adoption.

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<sup>88</sup> FBiH Statistics Institute, Metodološko uputstvo statistika socijalne zaštite/skrbi (Methodological Guidelines for Social Protection Statistics), 2017

<sup>89</sup> Note that the FBiH Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, in cooperation with the representatives of the AESA Consortium launched a project entitled „Analysis of the needs of Centers of Social Work in the FBiH“, together with an implementation plan for the period between September 15, 2020 and February 12, 2021. The project has received the EU financial support and it is implemented by the AESA Consortium. The project's objective is to strengthen capacities of centers of social work on all administrative levels in the FBiH, as well as the capacities of the cantonal ministries with competences for the field of social and child protection.

The existing system of social protection in the FBiH includes basic elements, i.e., social assistance and family assistance in the form of cash transfers, social services and institutional care. The fundamental social protection rights include: cash benefits and other forms of financial assistance, training for life and work, placement in another family, placement in social protection institutions, social work and other professional services, and home care and home help.

Funding of these forms of social protection is a cantonal competence and is funded by cantonal budgets, except for persons with disabilities (non-war-related), whose benefits are funded by the FBiH Budget. In the past 20 years, most cantons faced difficulties in funding social protection. Differences in financial capacity between cantons and municipalities (sometimes even within the same canton) have caused disparities in coverage and have impacted the real effectiveness of the social protection system. This system covers most beneficiaries who are not covered by other social protection systems (e.g., by social insurance): the elderly, persons with disabilities and families with children.

### Statistical data on social protection

In 2019, in the FBiH there were 31 care institutions for children and youth, which constituted a considerable increase relative to 17 institutions in 2013. The number of charges in these institutions was 3,188, which was more than twice as many relative to the number of charges in 2013 (1,494). The number of employees was 1,508, which represented an increase of 96% relative to 2013, when the employees numbered 770.

In the FBiH there were also 49 institutions for adults, or 14 more institutions than in 2013. The number of charges in these institutions was 4,201, and they employed 1,558 staff. The number of charges in 18 professional rehabilitation institutions was 166, to the total staff of 191.

The total number of social protection beneficiaries in the FBiH in 2019 was 337,003.<sup>90</sup> This represents 15.4% of the entire population of the FBiH. Relative to 2013, the number of beneficiaries rose by over 9%, while the share of adult beneficiaries increased more (10.6%) and they account for 77% of the total number of social protection beneficiaries.

Table 35. Social protection beneficiaries in the FBiH - total

|          | 2013    | 2014    | 2015    | 2016    | 2017    | 2018    | 2019    |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Underage | 74,560  | 78,712  | 76,635  | 78,505  | 77,118  | 78,900  | 77,732  |
| Adults   | 234,326 | 253,634 | 243,465 | 257,488 | 252,254 | 262,929 | 259,271 |
| Total    | 308,886 | 332,346 | 320,100 | 335,993 | 329,372 | 341,829 | 337,003 |

Source: FBiH Statistics Institute. Social Protection Bulletins. 2014-2020

The number of underage beneficiaries (77,732) increased by over 4% in 2019, relative to 2013, with a more significant increase recorded in the categories in a state of various social protection needs (index = 116) and without a specific categorization (index = 268). Among underage beneficiaries, those vulnerable because of their family situation were the most numerous (47.5% in 2013 and 45.9% in 2019).

Table 36. Underage social protection beneficiaries. FBiH

|       | 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   | 2019   |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total | 74,560 | 78,712 | 76,635 | 78,505 | 77,118 | 78,900 | 77,732 |

<sup>90</sup> Any person who accessed certain forms and measures of social protection and social work services one or more times during the reporting year is considered a beneficiary of social protection. Source: FBiH Statistics Institute, 2019 Social Protection Bulletin, Methodological Explanations.

|                                                       |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Vulnerable because of family situation                | 35,330 | 36,092 | 35,427 | 35,416 | 32,574 | 32,580 | 31,736 |
| With psychological and physical development disorders | 8,559  | 8,927  | 8,986  | 9,004  | 8,342  | 7,425  | 8,134  |
| Socially unacceptable behaviour                       | 4,542  | 4,360  | 4,162  | 4,199  | 4,092  | 4,054  | 4,020  |
| Persons with mental disorders                         | 342    | 322    | 339    | 348    | 356    | 351    | 346    |
| In a state of various social protection needs         | 23,864 | 27,002 | 25,410 | 27,070 | 27,846 | 28,248 | 27,690 |
| In no specific category                               | 1,923  | 2,009  | 2,311  | 2,468  | 3,908  | 6,242  | 5,150  |

Source: FBiH Statistics Institute. Social Protection Bulletins. 2014-2020

In 2019, there were 259,271 adult beneficiaries of social protection in the FBiH, which was around 25,000 more than in 2013. Persons without sufficient incomes to support themselves<sup>91</sup> accounted for the greatest share of this total, 44.1% in 2013 and 43.4% in 2019.

Table 37: Adult social protection beneficiaries, FBiH

|                                                          | 2013    | 2014    | 2015    | 2016    | 2017    | 2018    | 2019    |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total                                                    | 234,326 | 253,634 | 243,465 | 257,488 | 252,254 | 262,929 | 259,271 |
| Recipients of cost subsidies                             | 3,622   | 3,098   | 3,242   | 2,949   | 3,010   | 2,913   | 3,151   |
| Persons without sufficient incomes to support themselves | 103,422 | 109,971 | 106,193 | 114,386 | 110,654 | 105,800 | 106,355 |
| With psychological and physical development disorders    | 27,073  | 27,567  | 26,620  | 28,423  | 26,435  | 28,843  | 26,839  |
| Socially unacceptable behaviour                          | 5,363   | 5,647   | 5,721   | 6,439   | 6,154   | 6,071   | 5,990   |
| Persons with mental disorders                            | 3,818   | 4,053   | 3,974   | 3,201   | 3,180   | 3,410   | 3,479   |
| In a state of various social protection needs            | 73,097  | 83,513  | 77,507  | 79,245  | 78,551  | 90,741  | 90,173  |
| In no specific category                                  | 17,931  | 19,785  | 20,208  | 22,845  | 24,270  | 25,151  | 26,763  |

Source: FBiH Statistics Institute. Social Protection Bulletins, 2014-2020.

In the territory of the FBiH, there are 69 centers for social work, 17 social protection agencies with a total of 809 employees. The centers processed 319,657 cases and carried out 458,855 interventions. Centers for social work are organized in all cantons, but it is important to note that social protection agencies have not been established in some cantons (Una-Sana, Posavina, Tuzla, Bosnia-Drina, West Herzegovina Canton).

## Social policy in support of employment

Social policy in support of employment is an objective that notionally puts primary focus on assistance to individuals in development of their skills and support on their path to employment and financial independence as the basis for social inclusion. This objective strives for a fair system of social protection, which aims to provide financial support to most vulnerable groups and, on the other hand, to empower persons capable of work with relevant knowledge and skills.

The data tracked by the FBiH Statistics Institute include the number of beneficiaries of social protection services related to assistance with training and earning a livelihood. In 2019, 902 social protection beneficiaries, of whom 873 adults, received assistance with training and earning a livelihood, and these were prepared to enter the labor market. Certainly, this is just one form of social policy support to employment.

Table 38: Social protection beneficiaries: Support for training and earning a livelihood

| Type of assistance                         | Underage | Adults | Total |
|--------------------------------------------|----------|--------|-------|
| Total                                      | 29       | 873    | 902   |
| Training for work and earning a livelihood | 25       | 711    | 736   |
| Rehabilitation assistance                  | 0        | 0      | 0     |

<sup>91</sup> Persons without financial security – adults capable of work, but lacking livelihoods and unable to secure them from any other source and under the age of 65 (men) or 60 (women).

|                                                         |   |     |     |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---|-----|-----|
| Finding employment                                      |   | 162 | 162 |
| Other forms of earning a living (cottage industry etc.) | 4 | 0   | 4   |

Source: FBiH Statistics Institute. 2019 Social Protection Bulletin. Statistical Bulletin no. 314. Sarajevo. 2020

The new approach to social protection, which aims to transform passive benefit recipients into active participants in life and work, impose expansion of this form of assistance and support.

### Financial and social security of the unemployed

Financial and social security of the unemployed is governed by the Law on Employment Intermediation and Social Security of the Unemployed („FBiH Official Gazette“ no. 55/00, 41/01, 22/05, and 9/08), amended in 2019.<sup>92</sup>

Table 39: Financial and social security of the unemployed and pension and disability insurance beneficiaries. end-of-year

| Beneficiaries by type of benefit | 2013    | 2020    | Index 2020/2013 |
|----------------------------------|---------|---------|-----------------|
| Cash allowance                   | 10,140  | 11,089  | 1.09            |
| Health insurance                 | 252,737 | 210,162 | 0.83            |
| Pension and disability insurance | 434     | 812     | 1.87            |

Source: FBiH Employment Bureau. Bulletins 10/2014 and 01/2020

The cantonal agencies are estimated to have disbursed around 54 million KM in unemployment benefits, more than 20 million KM for health care insurance and around 1.77 million KM for pension and disability insurance in 2019.<sup>93</sup>

### SOTAC information system

The SOTAC information system was introduced as part of the reform of the framework system of social protection. The implementation of the SOTAC system created a higher quality degree of control over disbursement of budget funds. With the full implementation of this system, a major breakthrough was achieved in the field of social and child protection to create much better and faster communication between different levels of government, as well as to explain ambiguities and issues encountered by the operators that work on entering data into the SOTAC system database, to promptly create preconditions for functioning of the Single Register of Non-Contributory Cash Benefits.<sup>94</sup>

Besides, the implementation of the SOTAC database permits discovery of possible abuses of the system, considerable shortening of the duration of administrative proceedings, increased availability and of assorted up-to-date data that all institutions use for development of policies, laws and various analyses and reports.

<sup>92</sup> An unemployed person who, at the time of termination of employment, worked continuously for eight months or eight months, intermittently, in the last 18 months, is eligible for a cash allowance, pursuant to the conditions below Health insurance contributions are covered for all persons registered as unemployed with cantonal public employment bureaus, unless they are eligible for this right on a different basis. Pension and disability insurance is covered for unemployed persons who lack up to three years of the length of service to qualify for old-age pension, pursuant to applicable pension and disability insurance regulations.

<sup>93</sup> FBiH Development Programming Institute, 2019 Development Report, working materials, Sarajevo, 2020

<sup>94</sup> The Law on the Single Register of Non-Contributory Cash Benefits („BiH Official Gazette“ entered into force in April 2017. The Single Register would permit centralization of all information related to disbursement of individual cash benefits (for physical persons) exempt from payment of contributions that are funded by the budgets of the FBiH, cantons, cities, municipalities, extra-budgetary funds, public institutions and other institutions as defined by this law.

The SOTAC system contains the rights that entail cash benefits of persons with non-war-related disabilities that are fully funded from the FBiH Budget, of civilian victims of war, as well as the exercise of the social protection rights governed by cantonal legislation. The report on the operation of the SOTAC system in the FBiH for 2019<sup>95</sup> contained the following brief conclusions:

- In 2019, the number of cantonal social protection and family and child protection instruments, administered and disbursed through the SOTAC information system, increased. The total number of cantonal social protection instruments administered through SOTAC in 2019 increased, from 68 in 2018 to 98 in 2019.
- Entry of municipal cash transfers also occurred, most often on one-time basis, for some social groups (which was not the case in 2018). The total number of payments registered in SOTAC in 2019 was 2,983, and their total value was 1,029,162 KM.
- In 2019, a total of 206,119 transfers were recorded through the SOTAC information system for all cantons and the FBiH, which was 29,481 payments more than in 2018.
- The total amount of benefit payments under the social protection system and family and child protection instruments in 2019 was 259,907,856 KM, which was 24,089,585 KM more relative to the total amount in 2018.
- The FBiH Budget accounted for 63% of the total disbursed funds.

### Strategy of Deinstitutionalization and Transformation of Social Protection institutions in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (2014-2020)

Deinstitutionalization is the policy of offering protection and treatment to medically and socially dependent beneficiaries in the community, instead of in institutions. It involves avoiding placement of dependent persons in institution, reintegration in the community of persons that can function and access programs provide in the community, and development of such social environment that contributes to faster reintegration in the community.

The Strategy of Deinstitutionalization and Transformation of Social Protection institutions represents the orientation of the FBiH Government to continue, with support of cantonal governments, with its public focus on increasing the quality of life of children, persons with disabilities and the elderly, and to make use of the processes of deinstitutionalization and transformation to secure conditions for providing support in the community to beneficiaries that need it and to implement the internationally safeguarded right that each person is entitled to a life in the community on the same basis as other persons. This document also represents a response to the need for systemic changes that should be carried out in the field of traditional institutional provision of care for beneficiaries.<sup>96</sup>

The strategy represents the basis for planning the network of social protection institutions and activities, as well as for defining priority investments into the development of a network of social services in the community.

The long-term objectives of the strategy are: to reduce placement in institutions and increase transition from institution to new forms of care, particularly through stimulation of family reintegration (with the guarantee of one or more support services for the family in the local community).

The desired state that is sought with the implementation of this strategy is the development of a protection system that would ensure improved quality of life, non-discrimination, protection of

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<sup>95</sup> The report was discussed and duly noted by the FBiH Government at its 237th session of 24th September 2020. The report is available at: <http://fmrsp.gov.ba/?wpdmpro=izvjestaj-o-funkcionisanju-informacijskog-sistema-sotac-za-2020-godinu>

<sup>96</sup> The strategy is available at: <https://fmrsp.gov.ba/?wpdmpro=strategija-deinstitucionalizacije-i-transormacije-ustanova-socijalne-zastite-u-fbih-2014-2020>

human rights and freedoms for all social protection beneficiaries through the transition from institutional to social protection in the community.

In connection with the implementation of the Strategy of Deinstitutionalization and Transformation of Social Protection institutions in FBiH (2014-2020), and the Action Plan for its implementation, the FBiH Ministry of Labor and Social Policy has, in the course of 2020, worked on comprehensive analyses and preparation of the implementation report after the strategy period ends.

The existing system of social protection in the FBiH contains basic elements, such as social assistance and assistance to families in the form of cash transfers, social services and institutional care. This system includes most categories that are not covered by other social security systems (e.g., social insurance): elderly, persons with disabilities and families with children.

The system is inefficient and unfair, permits that a large share of cash transfers flows to those who are not in need, instead of to the poor who are in direct need, or never even reaches all who need assistance. The social protection system is status-based, it is completely passive in terms of labor activation of beneficiaries, which leaves the beneficiaries in a state of labor and social exclusion. The system is not focused on beneficiaries' real needs.

Territorial discrimination is one of the key consequences of a poorly ordered social protection system. This refers, above all, to cash benefits, which are disbursed through centers for social work, while the benefit levels depend on the given canton's financial capacity and they can vary even between municipalities (from 45-120 KM per month), which is insufficient for meeting the basic needs. This way, poverty is not reduced, and social inequality is increased.

Attempts to ensure a continuation of the process of transformation towards sustainability and efficiency through a reform of the existing legislation on the FBiH level through adoption of a series of reform laws have not been successful so far.

Introduction of the Single Register of Non-Contributory Cash Benefits and of the SOTAC information system constituted major progress towards a consistent record keeping about disbursement of social protection benefits, as well as towards oversight of budgetary expenditure.

The Strategy of Deinstitutionalization and Transformation of Social Protection institutions in FBiH

### 13. Gender equality

Gender equality implies equal preconditions for men and women in exercising human rights and equal opportunities to contribute to cultural, political, economic, social, and national progress, as well as equal enjoyment of all advantages and benefits from a community's progress. The 2018-2023 Council of Europe's Gender Equality Strategy states „Gender equality implies equal rights for women and men, girls and boys, as well as equal visibility, empowerment, accountability, and participation of women and men in all areas of public and private life. This also implies equal access to resources and equal allocation of resources between men and women.“<sup>97</sup>

<sup>97</sup><https://ravnopravnost.gov.hr/UserDocImages/dokumenti/Biblioteka%20ONA/Strategija%20za%20ravnopravnost%20spolova%20VE%202018-2023.pdf>, p. 5

The 2012 Human Development Report dedicated to gender equality<sup>98</sup> noted that the economy and society make outstanding progress when women have equal opportunities for active participation in society and politics as men. A more balanced representation of women in decision-making contributes to positive processes of social change. Key areas that future actions towards achievement of full equality need to be based on are: transformation of labor relations, empowerment of women, and elimination of negative traditional gender stereotypes.

## International framework

Several key declarations, instruments and conventions on gender equality issues have been adopted on the global level, including, as the most important, the UN Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (UN CEDAW (1979))<sup>99</sup> and the Beijing Declaration and Action Platform (1995).<sup>100</sup>

Of the European instruments, it is important to note the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life, Recommendation CM/Rec (2007)17 of the Ministerial Committee of the Council of Europe and Council of Europe's 2018-2023 Gender Equality Strategy. Namely, in 2006, the Council of European Cities and Regions (CEMR), the largest organization of local and regional governments in Europe, whose membership includes more than 50 national associations of cities, municipalities and regions in 37 countries, initiated the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life<sup>101</sup>. By signing this charter, local and regional governments of European states publicly undertook to adhere to the principles of gender equality, to implement in their areas the provisions stipulated in the Charter, and to develop an Action Plan that would set priorities, activities, and resources for implementation.<sup>102</sup>

In the Recommendation CM/Rec (2007)17 of the Ministerial Committee of the Council of Europe<sup>103</sup> „Gender Equality Standards and Mechanisms“, the emphasis is placed on equality as the care and responsibility of the society as a whole. In the recommendation's chapter on strategies, mechanisms and resources for achieving gender equality, a duty of the Member States is, among other things, to adopt and implement an effective periodic national gender equality action plan.

The Council of Europe's 2014-2020 Gender Equality Strategy<sup>104</sup>, highlights the importance of fighting against discrimination of women in a systematic and comprehensive manner, to achieve full and real gender equality.

## Bosnia and Herzegovina

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<sup>98</sup> World Development Report 2012 - Gender Equality and Development, The World Bank. Dostupno na: <https://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWDR2012/Resources/7778105-1299699968583/7786210-1315936222006/Complete-Report.pdf>

<sup>99</sup> <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/cedaw.pdf>.

<sup>100</sup> Beijing Declaration and Action Platform, available at: <http://arsbih.gov.ba/project/pekinska-deklaracija-i-platforma-za-akciju/>.

<sup>101</sup> The charter is available at: <http://www.charter-equality.eu/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/European-Charter-in-Bosnian-BA2.pdf>

<sup>102</sup> According to the data of the Observatory for Tracking the Implementation of the Charter, it was signed by four municipalities in BiH: Sarajevo in 2011, Mostar in 2012, and Gradiška and Srbač in 2014, but none adopted an action plan. Source: ODRAZ - Održivi razvoj zajednice: Žene u lokalnom razvoju BiH, Rezultati istraživanja o statusu i ulozi žena u BiH, njihovom utjecaju na razvoj lokalnih zajednica i stvaranje novih mogućnosti zapošljavanja, Zagreb, December 2015, p. 7.

<sup>103</sup> More details at: <https://ravnopravnost.gov.hr/UserDocsImages/arhiva/preuzimanje/biblioteka-ona/Preporuka%20Rec%202007%2017%20Odbora%20ministara%20dr%C5%BEavama%20%C4%8Dlanicama%20VE%20o%20standardima%20i%20mehanizmima%20ravnopravnosti%20spolova%20i%20Memorandum%20s%20obja%C5%A1njenjima.pdf>

<sup>104</sup> The Strategy is available at: <https://ravnopravnost.gov.hr/arhiva/biblioteka-ureda/strategija-za-ravnopravnost-spolovajieca-europe-2014-2017/1634>

Gender equality obligations of Bosnia and Herzegovina arise from both domestic and international instruments, which BiH assumed with the ratification of the conventions on gender equality. Gender equality is also one of the long-term sustainable development goals (SDG 5) set by the Agenda 2030, which strives towards gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls. Furthermore, in 2013 Bosnia and Herzegovina became 26th Member State of the Council of Europe and it signed the Istanbul Convention – the Council of Europe Convention on Prevention and Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. It was ratified the same year, and it meant assumption of the duty to take legal and other measures to establish a legal, institutional, and organizational framework for prevention of violence against women, protection of the victims of violence and prosecution of the perpetrators of violence. On its path to the membership in the European Union, Bosnia and Herzegovina must incorporate the EU's most important directives, which cover gender equality, into its legislation.<sup>105</sup> In May 2019, the European Commission adopted the Opinion on the Application of BiH on the new set of socio-economic reform measures, and on ensuring their implementation by the governments on all levels in BiH. In the Analytical Report, inequality of women and men in employment and social policies was highlighted, as well as insufficient representation of women in political life.

### Legislation and strategic framework in BiH

In recent years, in Bosnia and Herzegovina great efforts have been invested in the development of the domestic legal, institutional and political framework for application of the principle of gender equality. The Law on Gender Equality in BiH and BiH Election Law are key pieces of framework legislation. The strategic framework is established through mandatory development and adoption of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) for BiH, through the reports on the implementation of GAP, as well as programs to achieve gender equality.

The Law on Gender Equality in BiH („BiH Official Gazette“ no. 16/13) was adopted in 2003 and represents the most important instrument for raising awareness on gender equality issues and introduction of the principle of gender equality into public policies and regulations. In all its aspects, the Law adheres to the stipulations of the UN Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination. The Law was subsequently amended, and the consolidated text was published in the „BiH Official Gazette“ no. 32/10.

According to the 2013 amendments of the BiH Election Law, representation is equal if one gender is represented with 40% of the total number of candidates on the list. In the Report on Gender Equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2012-2014, it was stated that this positive legislative measure failed to increase participation of women in decision-making in political, social and economic spheres. Therefore, a greater engagement of all stakeholders is required to promote women as equal holders of political offices on all levels of government in BiH.

The duty to develop the Gender Action Plan in BiH (GAP), as a strategy that sets program objectives for achieving gender equality in all areas of social life and work, in the public and private sphere, was defined by the Law on Gender Equality. Development of the Gender Action Plans (GAP) is a duty that arises from both international and domestic instruments: Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women – CEDAW, Beijing Declaration and Action Platform, Recommendation CM/Rec (2007)17 of the Ministerial Committee „Gender Equality Standards and Mechanisms“, etc.

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<sup>105</sup> For more detail on the EU and gender equality, see: Todorov, D. et al.: *Evropska unija i rodna ravnopravnost*, Provincial Gender Equality Institute, Novi Sad, 2019, p. 19, available at: [http://hcabl.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Evropska\\_unija\\_i\\_rodna\\_ravnopravnost\\_knj-1.pdf](http://hcabl.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Evropska_unija_i_rodna_ravnopravnost_knj-1.pdf)

To this day, the BiH Council of Ministers adopted three GAPs, for the 2006-2011, 2013-2017, and 2018-2022 periods<sup>106</sup>, and these were accompanied by the reports on the implementation of gender action plans. The GAP for BiH is a framework strategic document that provides guidelines for development of operational plans of institutions on all levels of government in BiH. This strategic document covers all areas of social life, but it defines priority and cross-cutting areas, as well as those related to strengthening systems, mechanisms and instruments for achieving gender equality, and boosting cooperation and partnerships. This allows cleared definition of the duties of institutional gender equality mechanisms, and of the duties and responsibilities of competent ministries in each priority area.

Pursuant to the Law on Gender Equality in BiH, all levels of government are required to adopt programs for achieving gender equality for their respective areas, as stipulated by Art. 24 of the Gender Equality Law.<sup>107</sup>

### Institutional gender equality mechanisms

Institutional gender equality mechanisms have been created within the systems of legislative and executive authority on all levels as part of a comprehensive effort to improve the state of gender equality (of men/boys and women/girls) in BiH.

In the legislative domain, there are the Gender Equality Implementation Committee of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly on the state level, the Gender Equity Committee of the House of Peoples and the Gender Equality Committee of the House of Representatives of the FBiH Parliament, as well as the Equal Rights Committee of the RS National Assembly. Gender equality committees have also been established in the cantonal assemblies in the FBiH. On the local level, there are committees within municipal councils in nearly all municipalities in BiH.

In the executive branch, the BiH Gender Equality Agency operates within the BiH Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, while the FBiH Gender Center and RS Government's Gender Equality and Equity Center have been created on the entity level. Gender equality commissions have also been established in the offices of municipal mayors.

The BiH Gender Equality Agency and entity gender centers represent a key instrument in initiation and implementation of gender equality activities. Theirs is the prominent role in view of the activities, projects, and measures they implemented and continue to implement to strengthen and sustain institutional gender equality mechanisms, as well as to initiate creation of such mechanisms on the local level.

Nevertheless, despite all above positive changes, the key problem that remains is that laws and institutional mechanisms guarantee full gender equality, but the situation is different in practice. Besides, there are still insufficient gender statistics by sector, without which it is impossible to conduct gender analysis and gender planning, prepare report on the state of gender equality, define and track gender development indicators, etc. A failure to apply the concept of gender in the budget system is also evident. Very few government bodies understand the concept of gender-responsive budgeting and no significant steps are taken in this regard.

Gender inequality in practice is to the greatest extent a consequence of strengthening conservative, patriarchal attitudes in BiH. In turn, this is a result of the spread of nationalist ideologies and

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<sup>106</sup> 2018-2020 Gender Action Plan was published in the „BiH Official Gazette“ no. 98/18. Available at:

<http://www.sluzbenilist.ba/page/akt/VMFsM85DiGg=>

<sup>107</sup> [https://www.gcfbih.gov.ba/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/ZoRS\\_32\\_10\\_B.pdf](https://www.gcfbih.gov.ba/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/ZoRS_32_10_B.pdf), p. 5

outlook, which are intrinsically opposed to gender equality. The same reasons underlie the discrimination of the LGBT population, whose very appearance in the public space is met by radical homophobia. This goes far beyond exclusion, as it aims at elimination of their very existence. Gender equality in practice requires a transformation of social consciousness, democratization and raising awareness of citizens, which would necessarily accompany adoption of the EU standards.<sup>108</sup>

### Global positioning of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Gender Development Index

Equality of all people, regardless of gender, race, ethnic or religious affiliation is at the core of the concept of human development. Equal enjoyment of human rights by women and men is a universally accepted principle. The shift towards gender equality is not a technocratic objective, but a political process. It demands a new philosophy that accepts all people, regardless of gender, as essentially important stakeholders of change and development.

The concept of human development, since its inception, dealt with unequal opportunities of women and men. In the world today there is a need for a far broader study of gender inequality in the economic and social order, as well as for meticulous empirical research. In 1995, the human development reports introduced the Gender Development Index (GDI), which was developed within the concept of human development<sup>109</sup>. The GDI measures average achievement reflected in the inequality between women and men in the fundamental dimensions of human development: health, education and standard of living.

Nowadays, following several enhancements of the GDI calculation methodology, the human development reports use:

- Gender Development Index (GDI), which measures inequality of women and men in: life expectancy at birth, average years of schooling, expected years of schooling and estimated gross national income per capita (GNI/pc).
- Gender Inequality Index (GII) was conceived to capture inequality of achievements of women in three dimensions: empowerment, economic activity and reproductive health. The GII reveals the loss in human development due to inequality between women and men in these dimensions.

All above indicators for tracking GDI and GII are connected with the Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals and track the set development goals and objectives. The data from the Human Development Report, available at: <http://www.hdr.undp.org/en/data>, are used as the database for BiH.

According to the GDI, BiH belongs to Group 4 in country classification, which means that it is a country with medium-to-low equality of achievements between women and men in the core dimensions of human development. The lower the GDI, the higher the inequalities. In the ideal situation, equality of men and women would mean that the GDI would equal 1.000.

- achieved Human Development Index for men is 0.061 points (or 8%) higher than for women;
- women in BiH live on average 5 years longer than men;
- expected years of schooling for men are 0.4 years (2.9%) longer;
- average years of schooling for men are 2.2 years, or 25%, longer; and
- men generate twice as high GNI than women (17,123/8,432 in 2011 PPP \$)

Therefore, the greatest differences between women and men occur in the economic dimension.

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<sup>108</sup> SIF in BiH: „Towards the European Union – Key Social Inclusion Issues in BiH“, Sarajevo, April 2019

<sup>109</sup> For more details, see: <http://www.hdr.undp.org/>

Relative to its immediate neighbors, Bosnia and Herzegovina's indicators for all dimensions are worse (with the exception of life expectancy at birth, which is worse in Serbia). Slovenia, Croatia, and Serbia, according to this classification, belong to Group 1, which means that they are considered countries with high equality of achievements between women and men, in terms of human development dimensions.

According to the GII, Bosnia and Herzegovina suffers considerable losses to human development due to inequality between women and men. Certainly, the lower index indicates lower losses. It was ranked in 38th place, which was more favorable relative to its Human Development Index (HDI) ranking, where BiH was ranked in 75th place in the world.

Table 40. Gender Development Index, 2018

| HDI rank                    | GDI and components     | Gender Development Index |       | Human Development Index |       | Life expectancy at birth (SDG3) |      | Expected years of schooling (SDG4.3) |      | Mean years of schooling (SDG4.6) |      | Estimated gross national income per capita (SDG8.5) |        |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|------|--------------------------------------|------|----------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------|
|                             | Country                | Value                    | Group | Value                   |       | (years)                         |      | (years)                              |      | (years)                          |      | (2011 PPP \$)                                       |        |
|                             |                        |                          |       | Female                  | Male  | Female                          | Male | Female                               | Male | Female                           | Male | Female                                              | Male   |
| Very high human development |                        |                          |       |                         |       |                                 |      |                                      |      |                                  |      |                                                     |        |
| 24                          | Slovenia               | 1.003                    | 1     | 0.902                   | 0.899 | 83.9                            | 78.4 | 18.2                                 | 16.7 | 12.2                             | 12.3 | 28,832                                              | 35,487 |
| 46                          | Croatia                | 0.989                    | 1     | 0.832                   | 0.842 | 81.5                            | 75.1 | 15.7                                 | 14.3 | 10.9                             | 12.0 | 19,441                                              | 26,960 |
| High human development      |                        |                          |       |                         |       |                                 |      |                                      |      |                                  |      |                                                     |        |
| 63                          | Serbia                 | 0.976                    | 1     | 0.789                   | 0.808 | 78.5                            | 73.3 | 15.3                                 | 14.3 | 10.7                             | 11.6 | 12,549                                              | 17,995 |
| 75                          | Bosnia and Herzegovina | 0.924                    | 4     | 0.735                   | 0.796 | 79.7                            | 74.8 | 13.9                                 | 13.5 | 8.6                              | 10.9 | 8,432                                               | 17,123 |
| Human development groups    |                        |                          |       |                         |       |                                 |      |                                      |      |                                  |      |                                                     |        |
| Very high human development |                        | 0.979                    | —     | 0.880                   | 0.898 | 82.4                            | 76.7 | 16.7                                 | 16.1 | 12.0                             | 12.1 | 30,171                                              | 50,297 |
| High human development      |                        | 0.960                    | —     | 0.732                   | 0.763 | 77.8                            | 72.7 | 14.0                                 | 13.6 | 8.0                              | 8.6  | 10,460                                              | 18,271 |
| Medium human development    |                        | 0.845                    | —     | 0.571                   | 0.676 | 70.9                            | 67.8 | 11.9                                 | 11.5 | 5.0                              | 7.8  | 2,787                                               | 9,528  |
| Low human development       |                        | 0.858                    | —     | 0.465                   | 0.542 | 63.0                            | 59.7 | 8.5                                  | 9.9  | 3.8                              | 5.8  | 1,928                                               | 3,232  |

Source: <http://www.hdr.undp.org/en/content/table-4-gender-development-index>

Relative to its neighbors, the BiH indicators on the share of women in the parliament are lower, as are the percentage of inhabitants with completed secondary education, while the participation of women in the labor force is significantly lower.

Table 41. Gender Inequality Index, 2018

| HDI rank                    | GII and components     | Gender Inequality Index |      | Maternal mortality ratio (SDG3.) | Adolescent birth rate (SDG3.7)      | Share of seats in parliament (SDG5.5) | Population with at least some secondary education (SDG4.6) |      | Labour force participation rate |      |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------|---------------------------------|------|
|                             | Country                | Value                   | Rank | (deaths per 100,000 live births) | (births per 1,000 women ages 15–19) | (% held by women)                     | (% ages 25 and older)                                      |      | (% ages 15 and older)           |      |
|                             |                        | 2018                    | 2018 | 2015                             | 2015–2020                           | 2018                                  | Female                                                     | Male | Female                          | Male |
|                             |                        |                         |      |                                  |                                     |                                       | 2010–2018                                                  |      | 2018                            | 2018 |
| Very high human development |                        |                         |      |                                  |                                     |                                       |                                                            |      |                                 |      |
| 24                          | Slovenia               | 0.069                   | 12   | 9                                | 3.8                                 | 20.0                                  | 97.0                                                       | 98.3 | 53.4                            | 62.7 |
| 46                          | Croatia                | 0.122                   | 31   | 8                                | 8.7                                 | 18.5                                  | 94.5                                                       | 96.9 | 45.7                            | 58.2 |
| High human development      |                        |                         |      |                                  |                                     |                                       |                                                            |      |                                 |      |
| 63                          | Serbia                 | 0.161                   | 37   | 17                               | 14.7                                | 34.4                                  | 85.7                                                       | 93.6 | 46.8                            | 62.1 |
| 75                          | Bosnia and Herzegovina | 0.162                   | 38   | 11                               | 9.6                                 | 19.3                                  | 73.1                                                       | 90.0 | 35.6                            | 58.6 |
| Human development groups    |                        |                         |      |                                  |                                     |                                       |                                                            |      |                                 |      |
| Very high human development |                        | 0.175                   | —    | 15                               | 16.7                                | 27.2                                  | 87.0                                                       | 88.7 | 52.1                            | 69.0 |
| High human development      |                        | 0.331                   | —    | 56                               | 33.6                                | 24.4                                  | 68.9                                                       | 74.5 | 53.9                            | 75.6 |
| Medium human development    |                        | 0.501                   | —    | 198                              | 34.3                                | 20.8                                  | 39.5                                                       | 58.7 | 32.3                            | 78.9 |
| Low human development       |                        | 0.590                   | —    | 557                              | 101.1                               | 21.3                                  | 17.8                                                       | 30.3 | 58.2                            | 73.1 |

Source: <http://www.hdr.undp.org/en/content/table-5-gender-inequality-index>

Basic gender inequality indicators in FBiH

Basic data according to 2013 Census.

According to the 2013 Census, in the FBiH there were 2,219,220 inhabitants. of whom 51% were women. and 49% were men. By age group. women predominated in the group over the age of 65 (58.4%)

Table 42: FBiH population by age group and gender. 2013 Census

| Age groups.<br>years | Men       | Women     | Total     | Structure in % |       |       |       |       |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                      |           |           |           | Men            | Women | Men   | Women | Total |
| Total                | 1,088,013 | 1,131,207 | 2,219,220 | 49.0           | 51.0  | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| 0-14                 | 183,143   | 173,805   | 356,948   | 51.3           | 48.7  | 16.8  | 15.4  | 16.1  |
| 15-64                | 785,877   | 790,449   | 1,576,326 | 49.9           | 50.1  | 72.2  | 69.9  | 71.0  |
| 65+                  | 118,993   | 166,953   | 285,946   | 41.6           | 58.4  | 10.9  | 14.8  | 12.9  |

Source: BiH Agency for Statistics. 2013 Census of the Population. Households. and Dwellings in BiH

As for the working age population men aged 15-65 accounted for 72.2% of the entire male population, while women in this age group constituted 69.9% of the entire female population.

The data on the elementary literacy of the population is quite discouraging. In the FBiH, 2.63% of the population (over the age of 10) were illiterate, while the illiteracy rate for women was far higher – 4.64%.

Table 43. Illiterate population in FBiH, by sex, 2013 Census

| Sex   | Total     | Illiterate |      | No answer |
|-------|-----------|------------|------|-----------|
|       |           | No.        | %    |           |
| Total | 1,988,325 | 52,227     | 2.63 | 20,784    |
| Men   | 969,343   | 6,823      | 0.70 | 7,389     |
| Women | 1,018,982 | 45,404     | 4.46 | 13,395    |

Source: BiH Agency for Statistics, 2013 Census of the Population, Households, and Dwellings in BiH

Educational attainment indicators are not encouraging either. In the FBiH, 250,680 inhabitants over the age of 15 had no education whatsoever or incomplete elementary education, which constitutes 13.5% of the total population of this age group, while the women's share was 76%.

Table 44. Educational attainment of the population (15+) in the FBiH, by sex, 2013 Census

| Sex    | Total     | No education | Incomplete elementary education | Elementary school | Secondary school | Post-secondary specialization | Junior college and associate degree | Higher education/ college/ academy/ university |
|--------|-----------|--------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Total  | 1,862,272 | 82,724       | 167,956                         | 401,188           | 952,320          | 13,254                        | 56,720                              | 188,110                                        |
| Men    | 904,850   | 13,635       | 46,470                          | 166,078           | 547,281          | 11,005                        | 30,520                              | 89,861                                         |
| Ženski | 957,422   | 69,089       | 121,486                         | 235,110           | 405,039          | 2,249                         | 26,200                              | 98,249                                         |

Source: BiH Agency for Statistics, 2013 Census of the Population, Households, and Dwellings in BiH

Moreover, of the entire population of women over the age of 15, 20% have either no education whatsoever or incomplete elementary education, and at the same time this represents more than 10% of the total population in this age group. It is worth noting that 10.3% of the population have higher education (college/university), and that women are a majority in this group (52.2%)

## Politics and public life

Both in BiH and in the FBiH, various legislative and policy measures have been undertaken to expand the participation and influence of women in public and political life. However, still there has been no real change in the status and influence of women in political life. Women remain consigned to the sidelines of political power and deprived of influence on policy formulation and implementation.

Gender imbalance prevails on all levels of government in BiH, and it is most pronounced on the highest levels of power. Not a single women has ever been a member of the three-member

Presidency, which acts as Head of State. Only one woman served as President of the FBiH (2007-2011) since the office had been created in 1994. No FBiH Government in its composition ever included more than two women ministers out of as many as 17 ministerial positions. On lower levels, men also predominated as prime ministers in all ten FBiH cantons, as ministers in cantonal governments, as well as in the positions of municipal mayors.

The Law on Amendments to the BiH Election Law increased the quota for the underrepresented sex for candidate lists, which contributed to greater representation of women on candidate lists, but did not produce desired results in terms of election success of women's candidates, who remain extremely underrepresented in representative bodies.

According to the data on 2018 general elections, women constituted 42.6% of all certified candidates for the FBiH Parliament and 41.6% for cantonal assemblies. However, among elected candidates, women made up 26.5% in the FBiH Parliament and 32.2% in the cantonal assemblies.

One exception to the share of women is in the judiciary, where women are more numerous on the staff of judiciary bodies, with their share ranging from 71.1% in 2015 to 73.1% in 2018.

Table 45. Judiciary in FBiH, by type of institution and sex

|                         | 2015          |             | 2016          |             | 2017          |             | 2018          |             |
|-------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
|                         | Female judges | Male judges | Female judges | Male judges | Female judges | Male judges | Female judges | Male judges |
| FBiH Supreme Court      | 27            | 9           | 33            | 11          | 32            | 12          | 33            | 12          |
| Higher Commercial Court | 3             | 4           | 3             | 4           | 3             | 4           | 3             | 4           |
| Cantonal courts         | 93            | 37          | 97            | 37          | 101           | 38          | 100           | 34          |

Source: BiH Agency for Statistics.

But, with the exception of the judiciary, women remain the underrepresented sex in public life and decision-making, and there is an observable trend of traditional perception of gender roles in public and private life. A traditional outlook on the position of women and socially accepted behavioral and relationship models persist that, in combination with deficient regulations, contribute to underrepresentation and insufficient participation of women in public life and at points where decisions are made. It is indispensable that all stakeholders, including political parties and the media, take part in affirming women as equal holders of political offices on all levels of government in BiH.

### Labor market, employment, unemployment

In BiH, and therefore in the FBiH, there is a very strong link between women's social role, their education, vocation and position in the labor market. It is also crucial to stress that previous studies of incomes and benefits are inadequate from the gender perspective and that the general knowledge and awareness about the impact of unpaid work on the society, economy, development and poverty reduction are on a very low level.

Women's mass entrance into the labor market was probably the most salient feature of their historic emancipation. In BiH and FBiH, we again see issues of lower share of women in the labor market, longer searches for the first job, long breaks in work history caused by maternity leave, caring for the elderly or sick family members, or inability to find jobs at a mature age because of market shifts and disappearance of the need for certain types of work. All these problems still affect women more. There are still stereotypes about women's and men's jobs, and a lack of mechanisms to balance family and professional life, which obstructs women's greater participation in labor and employment. In the FBiH, benefit levels for the duration of the maternity/parental leave are uneven and depend on the mother's place of residence, i.e., on the place where they are disbursed.

Women are more numerous among lowest paid labor market participants, and their concentration is particularly large in the following sectors: healthcare, education, agriculture, as well as in the informal sector. Many women are employed under fixed-term contracts, work less than full time or are excluded from the formal labor market, so they work in the „grey economy“. Internally displaced, rural and Roma women, and women and girls with disabilities are particularly vulnerable groups.

In recent years, the results have become discernible of a strategic approach to boosting employment levels, particularly for women and youth, through adoption and funding of active employment measures from the level of the FBiH implemented by cantonal employment bureaus. Numerous programs and measures were implemented to promote integration of women into the labor market and access to economic resources on equal terms, as well as protection against gender-based discrimination in work and labor relations. Active employment policies were geared to provide training, employment support and on-the-job training, upskilling and reskilling, integration of the unemployed into the labor market and creation of equal opportunities for all in accessing the labor market.

Support was provided to targeted groups of the unemployed who were recognized in strategic documents as having difficulties in finding jobs, and particularly to young people and women. These measures proved to be short-term and insufficiently effective, as they cause temporary improvements, since the newly employed very quickly return to unemployment rolls.

The data on women's labor activation will be drawn from the Labor Force Survey. In 2019, the women's activity rate was 29.3% and it was below the general activity rate (39.1%), and considerably lower than the men's activity rate (49.7%). Relative to 2013, activity rates decreased slightly. The women's employment rate rose, from 21.3% in 2013 to 23.0% in 2019. At the same time, the women's unemployment rate declined from 28.4% in 2013 to 21.7% in 2019.

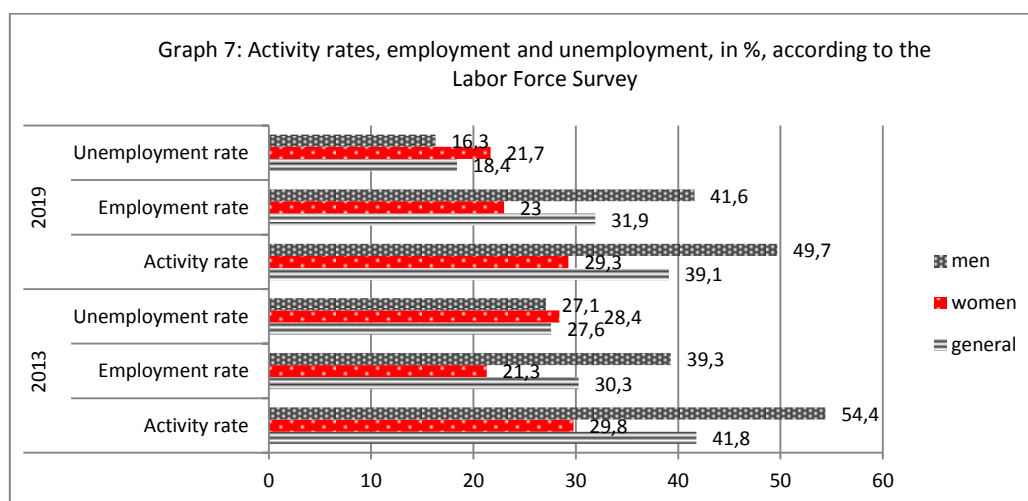
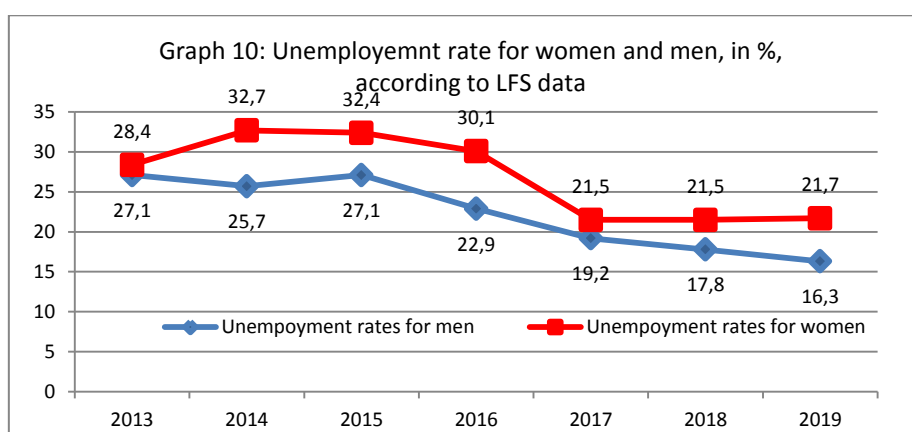
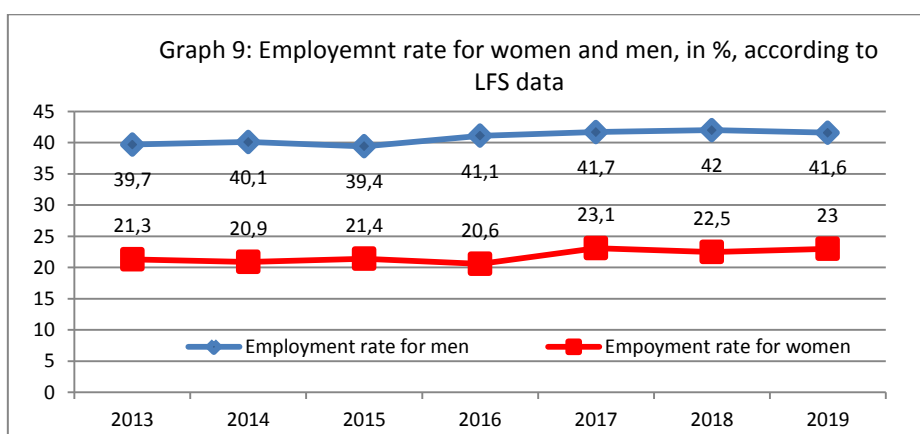
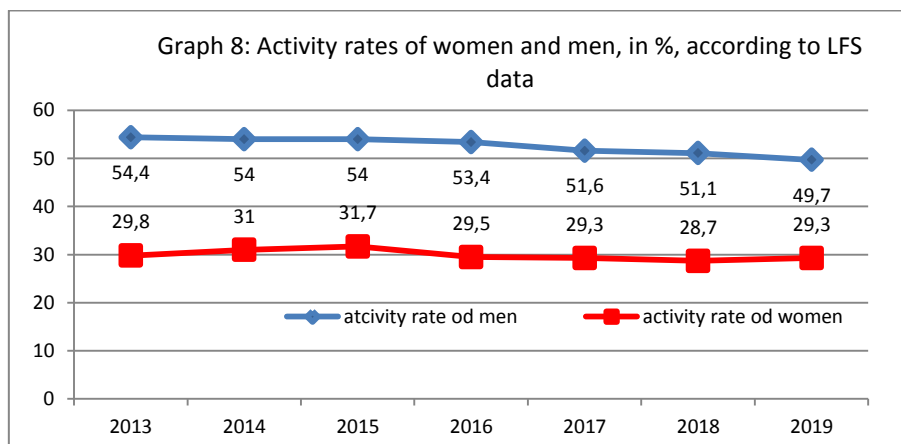


Table 46. Comparative overview of activity rates, employment and unemployment, in %

| Rates               | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | Index 2019/2013 |
|---------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------------|
| Activity, men       | 54.4 | 54.0 | 54.0 | 53.4 | 51.6 | 51.1 | 49.7 | 0.91            |
| Activity, women     | 29.8 | 31.0 | 31.7 | 29.5 | 29.3 | 28.7 | 29.3 | 0.98            |
| Employment, men     | 39.7 | 40.1 | 39.4 | 41.1 | 41.7 | 42.0 | 41.6 | 1.05            |
| Employment, women   | 21.3 | 20.9 | 21.4 | 20.6 | 23.1 | 22.5 | 23.0 | 1.08            |
| Unemployment, men   | 27.1 | 25.7 | 27.1 | 22.9 | 19.2 | 17.8 | 16.3 | 0.60            |
| Unemployment, women | 28.4 | 32.7 | 32.4 | 30.1 | 21.5 | 21.5 | 21.7 | 0.76            |

Source: Labor Force Surveys. 2013-2019

Despite some improvement in the activity of women in the labor market in terms of increased employment and lower unemployment, the gap between men and women still exists. It is illustrated in the following graphs.



It is worth noting that the long-term unemployment rate for women in 2019 was 79.5%, and for men it was somewhat lower, by 77.2%

In the FBiH there is a gender gap in exploitation of paid and unpaid work, with the women's share of unpaid work being far higher. According to the 2019 Labor Force Survey for BiH, the share of women (15-45+) in unpaid work in households, including work in agriculture, was estimated at 71.1%. The cause is a stereotypical perception of gender roles, unequal distribution of family responsibilities, underdeveloped and insufficiently widespread child and elderly care services, as well as the resilience of the gender segregated labor market. Women find it harder to opt for and start self-employment, the women's self-employment rate in 2019 being 3%, while for men it was 7.2%.

It is worth noting the distribution of employed women and men by educational attainment.

Table 47: Share of women in total employment, by educational attainment, %

| Education level                                  | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Elementary school and less                       | 19.7  | 15.8  | 16.2  | 14.7  | 17.6  | 10.6  |
| Secondary school and specialization              | 54.3  | 56.4  | 56.0  | 57.6  | 59.2  | 63.4  |
| Associate. bachelor. master's degrees. doctorate | 26.0  | 27.8  | 27.9  | 27.6  | 23.3  | 26.0  |
| Total                                            | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Source: LFS

Table 48: Share of men in total employment, by educational attainment, %

| Education level                                  | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Elementary school and less                       | 15.4  | 12.8  | 12.7  | 11.3  | 11.7  | 10.4  |
| Secondary school and specialization              | 68.4  | 70.7  | 71.7  | 72.9  | 73.0  | 75.0  |
| Associate, bachelor, master's degrees, doctorate | 16.2  | 16.5  | 15.6  | 15.9  | 15.3  | 14.6  |
| Total                                            | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Source: LFS

Among employed women, 26% have junior college or undergraduate degrees. Between 2013 and 2019, it was evident that the employment of women with low qualification was declining (from 19.7% in 2013 to 10.6% in 2018). Among employed men, 14.6% have junior college or undergraduate degrees. Such structural differences indicate also that highly educated women find employment more easily.

Despite some progress in employment of women, i.e., in the reduction of women's unemployment rate, unemployment rates of women in the FBiH are still far higher than women's unemployment rates in the EU. The average unemployment rate in the EU (28) was 6.5% in 2019. The lowest rate was in Germany (2.7%), and the highest in Greece (21.5%). Women's unemployment rate in Croatia decreased considerably, from 16.8% in 2013 to 7.2% in 2019.<sup>110</sup>

A systematic approach is essential in addressing the unemployment issue both in BiH and in the FBiH, and in ensuring equal treatment and participation of women and men in the labor market and in the access to economic resources.

## Education

The legal framework governing education in the FBiH explicitly bans gender-based discrimination and promotes equal access to education for all.

The 2018-2022 GAP emphasizes that, although the numbers of boys and girls, women and men included in the education process in BiH are equal, the advancement opportunities for girls and women and access to positions that require high qualifications are limited, primarily because of the stereotypes about male/female jobs and because of the issues of harmonizing professional and private life. The issues of education of members of vulnerable groups: national minorities

<sup>110</sup> Data source: Eurostat, [http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=une\\_rt\\_a&lang=en](http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=une_rt_a&lang=en)

(particularly Roma), rural residents, persons with disabilities, refugees and displaced persons, deserve particular attention because of numerous obstacles they face.<sup>111</sup>

The share of children attending preschool education in the FBiH remains unsatisfactory. Most children in preschool institutions in the FBiH are children whose both parents work (over 80%), followed by children with just one working parent, most frequently the father, which also reveals the predominant role of these institutions for caring for children while parents work. From the gender perspective, access to elementary and secondary education is balanced.

More than 97% of children in the FBiH are included in elementary education. Of the children not included in elementary education, children with developmental difficulties and Roma children are most numerous.

On the secondary education level, coverage is below the European average, but differences between boys and girls are also negligible. For a very high percentage of the population, primarily women, secondary education is the highest level of educational attainment. At the same time, persons with completed secondary education comprise the largest segment of the population in the labor market in the FBiH, and the share of persons with this level of educational attainment is also highest among the unemployed, which implies a major misalignment between the education and the labor market.

Concerning higher education, there are some more young women than young men that enrol in universities and get their degrees, but when it comes to earning the highest degrees, men are still more numerous. This trend attests to the durability of the phenomenon of „vertical segregation of women“ in the field of higher education and scientific research.

While official statistics publishes data on education, statistical data by sex need to be expanded both quantitatively and qualitatively by inclusion of data on literacy rates by sex, enrollment rates for each level of education, on the total number of children of age for enrollment in elementary, secondary and higher education relative to actual enrollment numbers, on scholarships, marginalized groups, rates and reasons for leaving school, adult education, support for research and development and other data that may be deemed relevant in the process of education reform (segregated by sex). Much of this data depends on population censuses, which is inadequate in view of the pace of changes.

## Poverty

High unemployment rates, high share of performing unpaid jobs, high participation in the informal market without social and health insurance, as well as a greater difficulty they face in finding jobs, all lead to poverty of women. A woman-headed household is at a considerably higher risk of descending into poverty. According to absolute poverty data, the poverty rate of women-headed households rose from 18% in 2011 to 20% in 2015.

Besides, the fact that, on average, women live longer contributes to an increased risk of sliding below the poverty line. It is a frequent occurrence, particularly in rural areas, that elderly women live alone, without pensions or any other regular incomes. Women pensioners, since for the most part they worked in lower-paid jobs, receive lower pensions.

Poor women are particularly affected by the sense of powerlessness and inability to express their views, whether in their own environment or in the communication with the authorities. Single mothers, elderly women, refugees, Roma women, women victims of violence, uneducated and unemployed women and women in rural areas and returnee households face particular difficulties. Taking into account this segmentation, various challenges must be considered when developing

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<sup>111</sup> 2018-2020 GAP, p. 22

assistance programs. Conducting gender equality studies is very important to obtain a clearer picture of the situation in the field, and in this regard considerable advancements have been made in recent years.

Enhancing the comprehensive approach to better education, non-discrimination, employment and self-employment of women, as well as the improved approach to social and health protection, will lead to a reduction of their poverty, enhanced protection and prevention of social exclusion.

Introduction of the principle of equality of women and men in all areas of public and private life does not just represent fulfillment of one of the core standards of human rights and fundamental freedoms, nor can it be reduced merely to the issues of social justice, nor to enforcement of EU-imposed directives. Before all else, it is an indispensable precondition for a country's sustainable social and economic development, with particular emphasis on poverty reduction and improvement of the quality of life of all its citizens. Gender equality is a core principle of development of any democratic society. Attaining this goal requires continuous efforts on improving the situation of women in all areas of life and work, particularly in public life, in decision-making, access to resources, labor market, education and protection from violence.

Economic empowerment of women is a core objective of gender equality, as economic independence is the foundation on which women can improve their position in all other spheres of life. Aside from the fact that without the participation of women in a country's labor force there can be no real economic progress and growth, economic emancipation of women is also considered a precondition for gender equality. Both in BiH and in the FBiH, the number of women in the labor market has for years been lower than the number of men and women's participation rate is, according to reports, among the lowest in the region.

Availability of gender statistics by sector is limited, which makes it impossible to conduct gender analysis and planning, prepare gender equality reports, define and track gender development

## 14. National minorities

### Constitutive people

In BiH, national minorities are in a peculiar situation, and this issue may be considered from two angles. The first is, how a constitutive people becomes an national minority, pursuant to the BiH Constitution?

Namely, the BiH Constitution discriminates against the rights of constitutive peoples in the entities where they are not the majority. One way of looking at this is as territorial discrimination of constitutive peoples in BiH who do not have the same rights on the entire territory of BiH. Article 5 of the BiH Constitution stipulates that the BiH Presidency consists of three members: one Bosniak and one Croat, each elected directly from the territory of the FBiH, and one Serb, elected directly from the territory of the RS, in other words, representatives of constitutive peoples. Accordingly, a Croat or a Bosniak living in the RS cannot stand as candidates for a Croat/Bosniak Member of the Presidency, while a Serb from the FBiH does not have the right to as a candidate for the Serb Member of the BiH Presidency.

In addition, groups of members of constitutive peoples (Bosniaks, Croats, or Serbs) residing in municipalities, cantons or entities are minorities if their numbers are fewer than half the number of the majority ethnic group in the given community. This situation varies across the levels of the constitutional order of BiH, as well as the statistical data on „constitutional minorities“, which illustrates ethnic and territorial homogenization.<sup>112</sup>

Minorities constitute 23% of the population in BiH, they live in the entities where another ethnic group is in the majority (for 2% it is not determined), in the FBiH 27% of the population are minorities, but only 8% in the cantons. In the BD, 22% of inhabitants are a minority, in the RS and in RS municipalities, minorities account for 10%, and in the FBiH municipalities minorities constitute 7% of the population. In numerical terms, 384,000 Bosniaks, Croats and Serbs may be considered special „constitutional minorities“ (on the account of their religion, ethnic affiliation or place of residence). Their real socio-economic status is quite poor relative to the majority group, and the Constitution and laws guaranteeing their equality (in education, employment, etc.) are not complied with. This situation greatly contributes to social exclusion of these groups.<sup>113</sup>

The second form of discrimination in both the Constitution and the Election Law is the impossibility for members of national minorities to be elected to the BiH Presidency or Parliamentary Assembly's House of Peoples.<sup>114</sup>

And the third form of discrimination is that the Constitution discriminates against those BiH citizens who are neither national minorities nor members of constitutive peoples.<sup>115</sup>

More than ten years after the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg passed this historic decision and assessed that the BiH Constitution is discriminatory, its amendments have not been adopted, in spite of the Council of Europe's Resolution on BiH and the Opinion of the European Commission from May 2019.

Namely, in late January 2019, the Council of Europe adopted a resolution on BiH, warning BiH that it can no longer delay implementation of the recommendations of the Council of Europe. Political actors were invited to adopt the Constitutional and Election Law amendments no later than six months prior to the general elections.

In the European Commission's Opinion of 19 May 2019 on the application of BiH for Membership in the European Union, under Conclusions and Recommendations, it reads: „BiH still does not sufficiently meet the criteria related to stability of institutions that guarantee democracy, rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities. BiH must align its constitutional framework with European standards and ensure functionality of its institutions to be able to assume EU obligations.“

While accounting for the reality of political relations, BiH will have to find solutions that will also respect democratic standards. The principle of constitutionality of people is an obstacle in the development of BiH as a modern democratic state.

In June 2020, the Human Rights Ombudsmen of Bosnia and Herzegovina published a „Special Report on Representation of Constitutive People's and Others in Institutions, administrative organizations

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<sup>112</sup> Dr. Ilijaz Pilav of Srebrenica, as a Bosniak residing in the RS, sued BiH for being prevented to stand as a candidate for Member of the BiH Presidency, because he resides in the RS. The European Court for Human Rights approved the suit.

<sup>113</sup> SIF in BiH: „Towards the European Union – Key Social Inclusion Issues in BiH“, April 2019, p. 28

<sup>114</sup> Sejdić-Finci case, in which the European Court of Human Rights ruled in their favor in the lawsuit against Bosnia and Herzegovina, because as members of the Roma or Jewish groups they cannot stand in elections to these two bodies.

<sup>115</sup> Zornić case, in which the plaintiff sued BiH to the European Court of Human Rights as she identifies as a citizen of BiH and, on these grounds, is blocked from standing as candidate for both the state parliament's House of Peoples and for Member of the Presidency. In this case, too, the ECHR ruled in favor of the plaintiff.

and regulatory bodies of BiH, FBiH, RS, BDBiH and in FBiH cantons (by budget unit), with the exception of law enforcement bodies".<sup>116</sup> Among other things, the Ombudsmen found that most institutions, administrative and regulatory bodies in BiH failed to observe the constitutional principle which requires proportional representation of constitutive peoples and others, and that the principle of gender equality has not been fully observed.

The BiH Constitution has proven to be discriminatory regarding the rights of constitutive peoples in the entities, cantons or municipalities where they are not a majority, regarding the rights of national minorities and the rights of citizens that do not declare either as members of a constitutive people or of a national minority. The principle of constitutiveness of peoples represents an obstacle to the development of BiH as a modern democratic state. More than ten years after the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg passed this historic decision and assessed the BiH Constitution as discriminatory, its amendments have not yet been developed, in spite of the Council of Europe's Resolution on BiH and the European Commission's Opinion of May 2019.

## Roma

The status of national minorities in the traditional sense poses another set of problems. There are 17 national minorities living in BiH. Roma are recognized as the most numerous, most neglected and most vulnerable minority in BiH, while the living conditions of most Roma families in BiH may be qualified as a state of chronic, multidimensional poverty. The gap between the Roma and the majority population, in terms of housing, employment, education and healthcare is enormous, with Roma women in a particularly difficult position.

The basic indicators of primary importance for planning for Roma needs are based on the process of capturing these needs in which the BiH Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, in cooperation with the centers for social work and Roma associations, recorded 17,500 Roma. UNICEF's BiH Office published a particularly valuable source on Roma children as part of their Multiple Indicator Cluster System (MICS 2011-2012) study that focused on the Roma population.<sup>117</sup> As the census results lack indicators about the number of people who declared as members of the Roma national minority, according to the estimates of the municipalities and Roma associations, there are twice as many Roma in BiH (35-45,000). According to the data of the OSCE Mission to BiH, a total of 35,644 Roma lived in BiH in 2014 in 7,225 families. Housing is inadequate for 2,837 families, among whom 736 families are homeless.<sup>118</sup> There are Roma living throughout BiH, in 71 municipalities, and in 30 municipalities they are relatively numerous. According to UNICEF's official data, there are between 25,000 and 50,000 of Roma in BiH.<sup>119</sup> They are recognized as the most numerous, most neglected, and most vulnerable minority in BiH.

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<sup>116</sup> The entire report is available at:

[https://www.ombudsmen.gov.ba/documents/obudsmen\\_doc2020072012451914eng.pdf](https://www.ombudsmen.gov.ba/documents/obudsmen_doc2020072012451914eng.pdf)

<sup>117</sup> The report is available at: <https://www.unicef.org/bih/izvje%C5%A1taji/romska-populacija-istra%C5%BEivanje-vi%C5%A1estrukih-pokazatelja>

<sup>118</sup> Source:

[http://www.mhrr.gov.ba/ljudska\\_prava/Akcioni%20plan%20BiH%20za%20rjesavanje%20problema%20Roma%202017-2020%2020BOS.pdf, p. 3](http://www.mhrr.gov.ba/ljudska_prava/Akcioni%20plan%20BiH%20za%20rjesavanje%20problema%20Roma%202017-2020%2020BOS.pdf, p. 3)

<sup>119</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/bih/romska-djeca>

International standards, which BiH accepted in a considerable part, also address the issue of the rights of national minorities. International human rights protection documents and instruments<sup>120</sup>, including the rights of national minorities are a powerful tool for changing the economic, social, political, education, cultural, informational, housing, health, and other situation and status of national minorities in BiH.

As a United Nations Member State since May 1992, and Council of Europe Member State since April 2002, Bosnia and Herzegovina acceded and/or ratified numerous international instruments that are pertinent for legislative arrangements of the state. On the international level, this created an obligation for BiH to align its legislation also in the domain of the rights of national minorities. Besides, this is also required by the obligations arising from the European Union accession process, as well as from the Stabilization and Association Agreement between the European Union, its Member States, and BiH.

Initial activities on improving the protection of the most vulnerable Roma minority started with the appointment of an advisory and coordinating body by the BiH Council of Ministers in 2002. The first Roma Commission with the BiH Council of Ministers was appointed in June 2002 and a framework work program for the following for years was adopted.<sup>121</sup> The committee is empowered to debate all issues of significance for the Roma and to monitor the implementation of the BiH Strategy for Addressing Roma Issues. Later (after the inauguration of the Roma Inclusion Decade), it proposed activities to propmote more effective implementation of the 2005-2015 Roma Inclusion Decade, and to monitor implementation of action plans BiH was required to adopt pursuant to its Roma Decade obligations.

With the ratification of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in 2002, BiH assumed the obligation to act on implementation of the principles established in this Convention through active policies, legislation and other actions. The Law on the Protection of the Rights of Members of National Minorities (2003)<sup>122</sup> was adopted, and in this law BiH recognized national minority status for 17 minority communities. On the level of the FBiH, the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Members of National Minorities in the FBiH was passed („FBiH Official Gazette“, no. 56/08).

The BiH Strategy for Addressing Roma Issues, adopted by the Council of Ministers in July 2005, was an important step in supporting national minorities. Implementation of the activities and measures included in the BiH Strategy for Addressing Roma Issues is supposed to bring about improvements in the overall social position of the Roma population in BiH, primarily in the areas of housing, education, employment, living standards increases, social care and healthcare, preservation of cultural identity, learning their own language, history and culture, dissemination of information, participation in political life and decision-making, linking with other Roma and their NGOs in other countries, rising knowledge and awareness of the human rights, and particularly of the rights of women and children, etc.

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<sup>120</sup> Primarily, these include: Council of Europe's Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, International Treaty on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, Recommendations of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on Protection of Minority Rights, paragraphs 10-13 (1990), eecommendations of the Council of Europe on Access to Education, Housing, Employment, etc. for the Roma.

<sup>121</sup> The second Commision was formed in November 2007, the third in September 2012, and the fourth Roma Commission was convened in March 2017.

<sup>122</sup> „BiH Official Gazette“ no. 12 of 6 May 2003, 76/05, and 93/08

In February 2005, in Sophia, heads of governments of the states of Southeast Europe adopted the Declaration about the Roma Inclusion Decade 2005-2015 and set the Decade's rules and program. The purpose of the Decade was in the promise of the heads of governments of these states and international stakeholders (the Decade's initiators) to work on fighting discrimination and closing unacceptable gaps between the Roma and the rest of the society. This major international undertaking was launched with the objective to respond to the challenge that is common to all European states and that concerns inclusion of the Roma.

Since the initiative about the 2005-2015 Roma Inclusion Decade was launched, 12 European governments worked with the NGOs, intergovernmental bodies and Roma civic organizations to improve Roma socio-economic and political status. The Decade's goals were closely linked with the UN Millenium Development Goals and the EU's Social Inclusion Policy, as well as with the EC Framework. The Decade's core purpose was the governments orientation to act on cration of institutional mechanisms for elimination of discrimination and closing of the gaps between Roma and the rest of the population through adoption and implementation of national action plans that cover the issues of poverty, discrimination and gender inequality in four key areas – education, employment, healthcare and housing.

BiH adopted the Action Plan for Addressing Roma Issues in the Areas of Employment, Housing, and Healthcare, first in 2008, second for the 2013-2016 period, and third revised plan for 2017-2020.<sup>123</sup>

Education was covered in a separate BiH Action Plan for Educational Needs of Roma, adopted in 2003 by the BiH Council of Ministers, which was proposed by the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees. This plan envisaged formal equality of access to education for national minorities.

After BiH acceded the Roma Decade program, the Action Plan was revised to address the issues related to better and more responsible access to education for Roma children, as the children of the most numerous national minority in BiH. This document, which was debated and adopted by the BiH Council of Ministers in July 2010, set the goals and defined measures to ensure equality of access to quality education for the children of this marginalized group and to ensure that they acquire essential skills for subsequent more successful integration in the society. Higher quality education for the Roma is the only way out of the cycle of marginalization and social isolation.

The Roma Decade process was continued and complemented by the 2020 Roma Integration project, which was funded by the EU and Open Society, and adheres to the European Union's Framework for National Strategies for Roma Integration through 2020, is implemented by the Regional Cooperation Council, and BiH is a participant.

According to the latest available report of the Regional Cooperation Council, 2020 Roma Integration: Template for Annual Reporting on Implementation of Roma-Related Public Policies in Member States, 2018 Report for BiH,<sup>124</sup> the impact assessment states the following data on Roma in BiH: preschool attendance rate 5.3%, elementary school enrolment rate 64.2%, with completion rate 25.2%, secondary school enrolment rate 16.3%, with completion rate 12.8%, higher education enrolment rate 2.5%, and graduation rate 0.8%, literacy rate 80.4%, employment rate 14.9%, unemployment rate 59.4%, rate of access to healthcare 68.1%, homelessness rate 0.16%, water

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<sup>123</sup> The plan is available at:

[http://www.mhrr.gov.ba/ljudska\\_prava/Akcioni%20plan%20BiH%20za%20rjesavanje%20problema%20Roma%202017-2020%2020BOS.pdf](http://www.mhrr.gov.ba/ljudska_prava/Akcioni%20plan%20BiH%20za%20rjesavanje%20problema%20Roma%202017-2020%2020BOS.pdf)

<sup>124</sup> The report available at:

[http://www.mhrr.gov.ba/Javne\\_konsultacije/Arhivski/Obrazac%20RCC%20za%202017%20godinu.pdf](http://www.mhrr.gov.ba/Javne_konsultacije/Arhivski/Obrazac%20RCC%20za%202017%20godinu.pdf)

supply connection rate 84.4%, electricity connection rate 83.6%, rate of entry into birth records 17.9%.<sup>125</sup>

Very poor indicators in the area of education suggest that Roma self-obstruct on the path to continuation of educational paths to acquiring some qualifications. One of the reasons that Roma children do not enrol in elementary school is that they do not have birth certificates, i.e., they lack any identification document. Widespread illiteracy among this population makes them unaware of the major significance of education of development of children. An additional reason that so many in this population did not finish even elementary school is that they do not have the option to learn in their mother tongue, while their children, until they start school, speak the languages of constitutive peoples very poorly, and they only begin to master them when they start school, which affects their learning achievements.

It is a fact that, in recent years, the state of the Roma community has improved considerably owing to the implementation of the Strategy and related action plans. Roma were involved in this process through Roma NGOs and Roma communities, and they participate in the activities of the BiH Council of Ministers' Roma Committee, as well as through their representatives in the national minorities' councils at various levels of government.

### Institutional capacity for national minorities in BiH

Recently, BiH established a number of institutional mechanisms, i.e., bodies in charge of issues pertaining to national minorities, and the Roma Committee was established as an advisory body with the BiH Council of Ministers for the most numerous and vulnerable Roma national minority. These bodies were created within the legislative and executive authorities in BiH.

On the level of the FBiH, the FBiH Council of National Minorities was established by the Decree on Establishment and Appointment of Members of the FBiH National Minorities' Council („FBiH Official Gazette“, no. 79/09, 52/11, and 80/11), as an advisory body of the FBiH Parliament to safeguard the rights of national minorities.

In addition to competent institutions involved in the development of the Action Plan, an important function was fulfilled by Roma representatives and Roma associations, who were directly involved in coordination and proposing of measures for the Action Plans, which took place in local communities across BiH, as well as through cooperation with Roma associations and Roma resource centers in BiH. The Roma Committee with the BiH Council of Ministers has a particularly important advisory role.

Despite advances in the legislative and institutional sense, in adoption of strategic documents and action plans, Roma in BiH still face prejudice, intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion in their everyday life. Numerous studies of the types of social, economic, and political exclusion experienced by Roma show that their life expectancy and standard of living are below average.

Their health issues emerge earlier in life. Most Roma children never complete elementary education, very few go to secondary school, even fewer to university. Roma are almost entirely absent from politics, their CSOs are usually weak and they often have no official representatives as a minority. The attitudes towards Roma are less favorable than towards any other group. They remain most obviously discriminated group in the labor market, and discrimination is pervasive in the area of housing, with severe discrimination in public spaces and institutional discrimination in the public sector, including in social protection and the judiciary. The living conditions of most Roma families in BiH may be described as a state of chronic, multidimensional poverty. From the standpoint of social exclusion, Roma are in the worst position in every aspect of life.

## Development vision

A detailed situation analysis and the context of development of the Social Inclusion Strategy ultimately point to the key highlights for all marginalized groups:

- How to reduce poverty and secure minimum living standard for marginalized population groups?
- How to reduce risk of further poverty caused by the consequences of measures to combat COVID-19, how to prevent new poverty and social exclusion as consequences of measures put in place to combat COVID-19?
- How to improve the social protection system to be focused on beneficiaries' real needs (not status-based)?
- How to eliminate or reduce discrimination between citizens, particularly for groups marginalized on multiple grounds (territorial, disability, gender, minority status, etc.)

This vision represents a declaration of desired transformation in a long-term development perspective, even beyond the intended strategy period. In defining this vision, the basic approach is that social inclusion will increase labor activation of marginalized groups, which implies equal opportunities for all and fairness in the sense of identification of the needs and interests of marginalized and socially excluded groups of citizens.

### Social inclusion development vision:

The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is a society of equal opportunities, choices and approaches in exercising the right to social inclusion.

The vision is imbued with the Agenda 2030 principle, „no one left behind“, which strives towards elimination of multidimensional causes of poverty and inequality, as well as of discrimination in all forms. as for the fundamental orientation of the Social Inclusion Strategy, its departure point is to rest on the on the BiH Sustainable Development's Strategic Pillar Equal Opportunity Society, which aspires to achievement of the principles of the Agenda 2030.

The focus is also on activation, building skills and opportunities for lifelong learning for persons with a more difficult access to the labor market. The focus is also on enhancing the social protection system to protect in the best way those facing the greatest risk of poverty and exclusion (elderly, persons with disabilities, residents of remote rural areas, certain groups of women and children), with a basic principle of fairness in providing assistance to those who are really in need in order to strengthen territorial cohesion in the entire territory of the FBiH.

In this way, the Social Inclusion Strategy becomes a tool for implementation of the Agenda 2030 and SDGs, and the BiH Sustainable Development Framework in the territory of the FBiH. At the same time, it also supports the implementation of the FBiH Development Strategy, as defined by Strategic Objectiv 2: Prosperous and Inclusive Development.<sup>126</sup>

The Development Vision represents the basis for setting strategic objectives whose achievement would contribute to fulfilment of the vision, and development accelerators, which are interwoven with all objectives and strongly support inclusion of all marginalized groups.

To achieve the Development Vision, the following strategic objectives have been formulated:

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<sup>126</sup> FBiH Development Programming Institute: 2021-2027 FBiH Development Strategy, Sarajevo, August 2020, pp. 34 and 52. The working version of the Strategy available at:  
[file:///C:/Users/HOME/Downloads/Strategija%20razvoja%20FBiH%202021\\_2027\\_14\\_07\\_2020.pdf](file:///C:/Users/HOME/Downloads/Strategija%20razvoja%20FBiH%202021_2027_14_07_2020.pdf)

Strategic Objective 1: Reduce poverty through social inclusion

Strategic Objective 2: Improve the social protection system

Strategic Objective 3: Strengthen territorial cohesion

Social entrepreneurship, a strongest factor boosting active labor market measures aimed at employment and reforms of the social protection system is a powerful accelerator for achievement of strategic objectives, and a pathway toward social inclusion. Social entrepreneurship is an amalgamation of social protection and employment, a transition from „welfare“ to employment, so it has both an economic and a social dimension, thereby becoming a strong tool of social inclusion of the excluded, from the unemployed to marginalized groups. The creative industry has been recognized as the fastest growing sector that contributes to creation of new jobs, poverty reduction, technology development, and general improvement in the quality of life.

## Strategic objectives

### 1. Strategic Objective 1: Reduce poverty through social inclusion

Social exclusion is a multidimensional concept, just like poverty. In the context of a holistic approach to development and human development, poverty is perceived as a form of deprivation, or as a scarcity of choices and opportunities for realization of fundamental human capabilities. This means that, in the fight against poverty, an anti-exclusion policy constitutes a better approach, as it is more comprehensive and means access and orientation on addressing the causes of poverty which, above all else, cause exclusion caused by income scarcity.

In this context, Strategic Objective 1 has a long-term focus on inclusive education and labor activation of marginalized groups that are deprived of their basic right, the right to work according to their abilities and competences. And education is crucial for human development and it opens a path towards many important possibilities. Among other things, an individual is trained for integration into the labor market, which makes financial independence possible, which in turn precludes poverty and improves the quality of life.

The purpose of this document is to provide directions for ensuring the minimum standard of living for the most vulnerable part of the population and securing conditions to prevent emergence of new poverty and social exclusion as a consequence of measures for combating COVID-19. In this regard, the Strategy represents a basic framework that enables achievement of the established objective, which is fully complementary with SDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere.

The socio-economic impact of the crisis caused by the pandemic is almost impossible to completely predict and project, and shocks will also depend on the duration of the pandemic. It is certain that the consequences will be more strongly felt in 2021 than they have been in 2020. And that the most vulnerable will suffer. Therefore, the first priority objective focuses on measures that respond to the effects of the pandemic on poverty, social protection and education.

Short-term objectives relate to a period of one year, and long-term ones to the entire period for which the document is adopted. Development of strategic documents is planned under the third priority objective to highlight the importance of a strategic approach to the themes and areas for which obligations already exist in laws or adopted documents.

The following priority objectives were formulated to achieve Strategic Objective 1:

Priority Objective 1: Short-term objectives as a response to the consequences of the pandemic

Priority Objective 2: Long-term objectives regarding marginalized groups

Priority Objective 3: Development of strategic documents of importance for social inclusion.

### 1.1 Priority Objective 1. Short-term objectives as a response to the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic

#### Measure 1.1. Develop the programs to prevent inequality in education.

These programs need to ensure common implementation standards and resources for digital instruction (instruction materials, hardware, Internet access) for general education schools on all levels and for vocational schools, and for their students, and to upgrade teachers' and educators' skills for e-learning.

Namely, the results and effectiveness of measures implemented and being implemented in education cannot be assessed, but indirect evidence suggests risks of unequal access to the education system and digital tools. This is more acute as the cantons and municipalities took some actions to support children, particularly in elementary education, which depends on their financial capacity and policies. This problem needs to be addressed immediately, as it generates unequal access to public education and vocational education and training.

Besides, closing schools, online instruction or alternate instruction (one week online, one week in classrooms, with half the students in class) produces profound effects on students.<sup>127</sup> Such arrangements pose a risk of increasing inequality in education, cause significant losses of learning, increase the risk of school leaving, particularly by students from families in vulnerable groups, such as Roma, and undermine the learning process of future generations. Physical presence in school provides a sense of security, peer support and a framework for personal development.

#### Measure 1.2. Increase funding for education of both teachers and students

This measure asks for increasing the budgets for professional education and training of both teachers and children and for making sure to focus the resources on children and youth from most vulnerable groups. The teachers imperatively need training programs to improve their digital and distance-teaching skills. Securing funding to provide computer equipment and Internet access is of great importance for schools, but also for vulnerable children without access to necessary equipment to learn online from home. This is the way to eliminate existing inequalities in access to digital technologies, prevent further losses of learning, and enhance the quality of education.

To this end, in the context of programmatic budgeting, one option is to adopt budgets that adequately address the needs of all children on all levels of government in the FBiH (cantonal and municipal), to ensure visibility of children in the budget with clear allocation of funds for needs and for meeting the need of every child in relevant sectors, along with the creation of a monitoring system.

Create a Fund for Children on the level of the FBiH to co-fund children's needs for IT equipment, medical protective equipment, buses for transportation of children, and at a later stage trainings, etc., which would prevent territorial discrimination of children, and in particular discrimination of children with developmental difficulties, Roma children, and poor children.

#### Measure 1.3. Implement the reform of the unemployment cash benefit eligibility system

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<sup>127</sup> It is assumed that the transition to distance-learning modalities can succeed in higher education, where students' capacities, organization and autonomy are greater, as well as their professors' competences.

The previous system of support for mitigation of crisis shocks was focused on preservation of jobs and wages in general and on protection of the public sector, as well as on subsidizing the labor costs in the formal private sector, which was affected by the consequences of a strict lockdown. But there was no wage and income shock in the public sector (which accounts for one-third of employees, which puts the employees in the real sector in a position to suffer discrimination). However, the benefits system does not cover persons who earn their livelihoods in the informal economy, persons employed on the basis of temporary contracts, persons performing seasonal jobs and those employed on the basis of fixed-term contracts as substitutes for absent employees.

The reform of the cash benefit eligibility system should channel support also to employees who are not covered by firm support programs, such as the self-employed or workers in the informal sector. Some examples of such measures might include expansion of the social protection programs, public works programs and adaptation of the unemployment insurance. The system would then become more effective in the course of the effort to mitigate the consequences of the pandemic, while expanding coverage to the informal sector employees.

It matters that the unemployment cash benefit program funded from the budgets could be integrated – coordinated with active employment measures, which could replace these benefits when a recovery takes root. Namely, as the recovery strengthens, the inclusive unemployment benefit scheme funded from the budget should be gradually phased out and replaced with active employment measures, which need to be developed in the meantime, should take its place to support the restructuring of the economy. These policies should be part of an integrated approach to the development of the labor market, with a dedicated component of inclusion of informal sector workers into the formal sector.

#### Measure 1.4. Measures of social protection and assistance as a response to the crisis for persons below the poverty line or at risk of poverty

The rise in poverty will depend on the duration of the recession caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Around 35-80,000 people are likely to become poor, and 50-60% of them are not currently covered by social protection programs.<sup>128</sup> Besides, some parts of the population are not covered by health insurance (estimated 20% for all of BiH).

An approximate calculation based on the end-2019 data: the number of registered unemployed (307,864), number of social protection beneficiaries (337,003), number of pensioners (442,009) suggest that around 50% of the population of the FBiH are socially excluded by belonging to these categories (a total of 1,086,876 inhabitants, or 49.6%). On the other hand, the estimate of the absolutely poor for 2015 was 447,000, or 23% of the population!

Moreover, there are risks that poverty might rise, not just because a drop in the number of employed, company closings, and worsening of all economic parameters, but also due to a decline in remittances, poverty of workers in the informal sector or due to a major increase in the healthcare costs that people pay for out of pocket. The above figures only roughly signal the depth of the crisis facing the population of both the FBiH and BiH as a whole. And the crisis always affects the marginalized and socially excluded the most, particularly in a small country such as BiH, which had exhibited signs of weakening economic parameters even before the pandemic-induced crisis.

The response of social assistance and measures of social protection face great challenges, particularly due to limited budget resources, while social protection allocations cannot be cut at the time of the pandemic (and neither for healthcare and education). The possibilities lie in reallocation of public revenues, economizing in the public sector, solidarity with the real sector, opportunities for

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<sup>128</sup> *The Economic and Social Impact of COVID-19: Poverty and Household Welfare*. Western Balkans Regular Economic Report no. 17 Washington, D.C: World Bank Group

sizeable savings on numerous budget items on all levels in the public sector (municipalities, cantons, FBiH, public sector institutions, legislative and executive branches, etc.)

The greatest potential to support the poor, persons near the poverty line and informal households facing loss of income due to the economic effects of COVID-19 lies in social assistance programs. These programs provide direct assistance, in cash or kind, in the form of goods or services, which help offset consumption fluctuations, compensate for higher expenditures caused by rising prices and prevents further slide into poverty.

Some options to use social assistance to mitigate direct and longer-term effects of the pandemic include: simplification of procedures for renewal of eligibility for social assistance; simplification of the procedure for initial recognition of eligibility for social assistance; disbursement of additional temporary transfers to assistance beneficiaries; temporary recognition of eligibility of beneficiaries who are close to the poverty line; support to grey economy workers. All these measures will require considerable investments. In social protection, the priority should be assigned to options to fund expanded safety net that targets the poor, as it represents the last impediment to households' descending into extreme poverty.

## 1.2 Priority Objective 2: Long-term objectives regarding marginalized groups

### Measure 2.1. Inclusive and quality education. equal rights for every child without discrimination – children

#### a) Enhancing preschool education and considerable expansion of enrolment of children in preschool education

It is essential to invest in affordable preschool education, which has indirect effects on participation of women in the labor market. This is of particular importance for children from sensitive groups, so they can be better prepared for school. The role of municipalities and cantons is important here, since preschool education is a cantonal competence, and municipalities may support preschool education. Private and public preschool institutions need to be aligned in status, preschool education networks need to be developed and made available in local communities, daycare centers should be established in companies, new services for parents and transportation of children should be created (services to bring children to and from school, services for parents and guardians, etc.)<sup>129</sup>

#### b) Reform of elementary and secondary education

The pandemic-induced crisis is an opportunity for a true reform of education in the sense of enhancement of quality for the needs of development and for development of inclusive education. Introduction of dual education model (in secondary education) is essential to align the curricula with the needs of the labor market. The long-term plan for education reform needs to be aligned with the COVID-19 reality and the resilience of education to future emergencies needs to be ensured. The reform should strongly emphasize enhancement of the quality of learning in general, while highlighting the needs of children from most vulnerable groups, including children with disabilities and Roma children, who typically need more support.

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<sup>129</sup> The Draft 2021-2027 FBiH Development Strategy, under Measure 2.1.2. „Enhance the quality of preschool, elementary, and secondary education for development needs and ensure inclusive education for all“, states, *inter alia*, „... involvement of persons from local communities (unemployed, pensioner women, low-income women, volunteer women, etc.) to assist in the homes with children and elderly, which would align the duty of childrearing with parents' professional duties, and generate additional incomes for the above categories.“

c) Consistent enforcement of legislative solutions in the area of child protection, along with public policy measures to:

- harmonize the legal framework for protection of families with children in the FBiH;
- create a fair system of setting the levels of transfers in the FBiH;
- enhance professional capacities and working conditions of bodies entrusted with enforcement of the laws; and
- establish and maintain systematic cooperation and coordination between key stakeholders.

This would create a fairer system in which access to various benefits would not depend on territorial or administrative factors or financial capacity of a given canton, and it would empower families with children who really need assistance and eliminate any form of discrimination of children.

d) Implementation of the concept of inclusive education – children and youth

The general assessment of education both in BiH and in the FBiH is that it is not inclusive in character, and that it is not appropriately regarded, although it represents an important pillar in the social inclusion and education pillar in the EU. Inclusive education means establishment of a system of education that permits all individuals to develop their potential (so it is not only about integration of young persons with special needs into regular schools). To implement inclusive education, it is necessary to: raise awareness in the community about implementation of inclusion; improve the legal framework that would ensure inclusion of young persons with special needs in the education system; provision of systemic support for professional development of teaching staff; support to educational work and support in teaching; developing partnerships between educational institutions and families, local communities, civil society and the labor market; and strengthening cooperation between elementary and secondary schools.

Measure 2.2. Increase social inclusion of youth

a) Development of key competences of young people in education with a focus on entrepreneurial, innovation and digital competences

In secondary and higher education, this measure means development of new qualification based on learning outcomes, alignment of vocational standards and qualification standards with the needs of the labor market, paths to greater employability and acceleration of overall development.

This also implies alignment of enrolment policies with the requirements of the labor market, development of entrepreneurial, innovation, and digital competences, creation of a strategic framework for development of human resources, securing funding, appropriate trainers and trainings for both teaching and non-teaching staff, development of infrastructure and increasing the level of equipment in educational institutions; boosting practical learning and trainings outside educational institutions, and adaptation of teaching processes to modern methods and forms of work in the field of education and training.

b) Significantly increase youth employment

Along with education, youth employment is, certainly, not just a fundamental right of young people, but also a vital interest of both BiH and the FBiH. Employment enables self-fulfillment of young people and allows them to earn a decent standard of living. This is a basic precondition for social inclusion.

Along with poverty, unemployment is a leading problem in the world today. At the time of the pandemic-induced crisis and its consequences, it becomes a priority of development policies and activities. To increase youth employment, when the focus in the labor market has shifted from

educational attainment to skills, it is essential to develop the systems of training, continuous lifelong learning, reskilling, etc.

Implementation of active employment measures has turned out to be a good approach. Active employment measures focus on improving knowledge and skills and promote self-employment, and particularly youth employment programs. Still, while these measures exhibit a positive trend, their effectiveness and longer-term sustainability needs to be evaluated.

Employment bureaus at all levels of government, which provide trainings in certain skills that should enhance individuals' competitiveness in the labor market, ought to maintain their unemployment registration lists not only by educational attainment, as most employers when advertizing jobs list skills required for performing in a given job.

### Measure 2.3. Increase community contribution and quality of life of persons in the third age of life

#### a) Recognizing value of the older generation as invaluable social capital

After retiring, many people continue to be able to offer their experience and knowledge to contribute in numerous areas of life and work. Extension of life expectancy means that older generations will live longer and that their share in the total population will increase, which necessitates new forms for sustainable development that would improve the quality of life of third-age persons, while benefiting from their contribution to the overall development of the community. Every modern society must realize that low-quality and inactive old age is actually destructive, while high-quality and active old age becomes progressive and productive.

The elderly should be given clear and better incentives, opportunities and conditions to continue working, but they also need to improve their employability, skills and expertise independently, through lifelong learning and education. Establishment of special departments in universities dedicated to the elderly population is an option, as well as various informal education programs for third-age persons to allow them to acquire new knowledge, skills and abilities, and combine them with their own experience.

New generations of the elderly are increasingly more educated and, consequently, even more open to continuing pursuit of new understanding, which makes it logical to expect that in the future there will be more and more people oriented towards lifelong learning even outside formal education. Studies conducted to date showed that participation of third-age persons in educational programs had positive effects on their physical, mental, and social functioning. Nevertheless, the education policy has still not focused on education of the elderly, and institutional and organized continuous forms of education for the elderly are still rare.<sup>130</sup> Therefore it is necessary to channel new forms of social responsibility into activation and social inclusion of the older generation, into valuation of their knowledge acquired through experience, which constitutes invaluable social capital.

#### b) Development of housing infrastructure for third-age persons

In a large proportion of households, the elderly live alone, or with their partners, while their descendants do not live with them, or are out of the country. Poverty data indicate that there is poverty risk in the case of singles' households, and it is significant that a majority have their own apartments or houses. This creates increasing demands both in terms of costs of living and of maintenance costs, etc. While pensions are insufficient to ensure a decent standard of living,

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<sup>130</sup> Some examples of such organized forms of education are third-age universities that have existed in Zagreb, Croatia for more than 20 years within the People's Open University and in Rijeka, organized by the Rijeka University with support of the local community. Source: Smojver-Ažić, Sanja :Sveučilište za treću dob: pogled u budućnost // 23. godišnja konferencija hrvatskih psihologa: Psihologija starenja - pogled u budućnost/Despot Lučanin, Jasminka; Černja, Iva; Lopižić, Josip; Rudolfi, Nelija (ed.). Šibenik: Naklada Slap, 2015. pp. 231-231 (lecture, domestic review, abstract, other)

particularly at the time when foreign remittances are also decreasing significantly. This puts these elderly at risk of poverty and social exclusion. Solutions that are available today in old-age care homes are predominantly geared to the sick and bedridden, who require special medical care.

Besides facilities for such purposes, smaller apartment structures with common spaces and shared services for all apartment residents should also be developed. Such buildings can be built in public-private partnerships. Apartment residents would enjoy their own private spaces, and shared spaces would include spacious living rooms, recreational areas, common services (restaurants, laundry rooms, garages...)

#### Measure 2.4. Increase independence of persons with disabilities and their active involvement and participation in all areas of life and work, without discrimination

##### a) Consistent implementation of the Operational Program of the 2016-2021 Strategy for Improvement of the Rights and Status of Persons with Disabilities in the FBiH

This means strengthening the legal framework and securing legal support and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, enhancing accessibility of environment for persons with disabilities through elimination of architectural and information and communications technology barriers, integration of persons with disabilities in all areas of life in equality with others, particularly in the area of education, cultural, sports, public and political activity. Furthermore, this means strengthening the programs of disability prevention and early detection and intervention in early growth and development, as well as ensuring access of services and creation of new services aligned with the needs of persons with disabilities.

In terms of labor activation, this means focus on employment and self-employment of persons with disabilities, prevention of any form of exploitation, abuse and violence against persons with disabilities. This also means raising public awareness about disability issues to combat prejudice, cultural and psychological barriers, as well as building capacities of the organizations of persons with disabilities and ensuring their participation in all processes in the society.

##### b) Introduce incentives to continuously promote employment opportunities for persons with disabilities

Creating conditions and promoting professional rehabilitation is essential as a key precondition for employment and integration in society, particularly through the policies promoting acquisition of skills and lifelong learning. In this regard, it is possible to establish institutions for professional rehabilitation of persons with disabilities on the level of the cantons and FBiH, which would assess remaining work capacity and conduct reskilling and upskilling programs for persons with disabilities. It is also essential to increase the support from the FBiH Budget for the Fund for Professional Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities to perform its core tasks in view of its significant contribution to advancement of rights and improvement of the position of persons with disabilities.

##### c) Eliminate discrimination of persons with disabilities on the basis of the cause of disability in terms of the range and level of benefits

This would mean equal rights of persons with disabilities: civilians with disabilities, civilian victims of war, and disabled war veterans. In this regard, it is necessary to amend legislation and modify the lower threshold of disability which is the criterion for eligibility for cash transfers, and to modify the categorization in the FBiH and cantons to disregard the timing and the cause of disability; it is also necessary to propose a new categorization based on the degree of remaining capacity, disregarding the cause of disability, in line with the WHO standards.

Measure 2.5. Strengthen social inclusion of women into society, primarily by strengthening competences, by education, participation in policymaking, and discrimination-free participation in the labor market

The issue of advancing the status of women in society is extremely complex and demanding from multiple aspects. The existing institutional and legislative framework allows and encourages greater inclusion and economic empowerment of women, but they have not been implemented in practice. Recalling the core purpose of this document, we will highlight the key measures that would contribute to strengthening women's inclusion into society. At the same time it is necessary to dismantle the stereotypes on the role and position of women in the society and family, both in women and in men.

a) Achieve equal gender representation in policy- and decision-making on all levels of government organization

In this regard, it is essential to develop and implement measures to promote equal representation in public life and in decision-making positions, which means increasing participation and position of women in political life, their roles in the legislative and executive branches of government on all levels in the FBiH. Concurrently, trainings should be conducted to increase political parties' capacity in order to increase the number of women in political life.

The task of the media was to regularly monitor and report on representation of women and men in decision-making positions, on candidate lists and in other processes of candidate selection for leadership positions of bodies on all levels of government organization.

b) Eliminate gender-based discrimination in work, employment, and the labor market, and secure equal opportunities for women and men in access to economic resources

This will be achieved by developing and implementation of a program of measures and actions to eliminate gender-based discrimination in the area of work, employment, and access to economic resources, including the strengthening of institutional capacities for application of international and domestic standards in this field, as well as through introduction of gender-responsive budgeting. It is necessary to support studies and programs for increasing women's participation in the labor force and for reduction of unemployment, programs to develop women's entrepreneurship and programs of economic and social empowerment of women.

Planned budget allocations for financial support and development of women's entrepreneurial ideas and development of entrepreneurship need to be increased; training programs for women should be introduced to empower women to search for, choose and obtain adequate employment, including reskilling and self-employment, starting and development of entrepreneurship.

Measures to align professional and personal life should be further developed, including protection of maternity and paternity, improvement of provisions governing paid maternity leave, paid parental leave for both parents, while significant boosting of enrolment of children in preschool education is of particular importance.

c) Creating equal opportunities for inclusive education for all, free of gender discrimination

While education for all is legally mandated, it remains necessary to develop and implement a program of measures that would create equal opportunities and ensure access to education for girls and boys, women and men of any age, including members of vulnerable groups, with the same prospects of future professional life.

This also means access to science, culture, and sports, including development of professional capacities to apply domestic and international standards in these fields, as well as introduction of gender-responsive budgeting. Supporting programs that strive for elimination of discriminatory and stereotypical attitudes in educational, scientific, cultural and sports content is of particular importance.

It is crucial to support lifelong learning programs for priority target groups, such as: adults without completed elementary or secondary education, adults with completed secondary education that does not match labor market needs, persons with disabilities, Roma, returnees, victims of gender-based violence, elderly, as well as persons willing to advance in their work and professions, and to improve entrepreneurial skills.

Programs promoting equal opportunities for both sexes in building capacity, improving access and ability to use new information and communications technologies in government, public and private companies, media, as well as in the education sector, also need to be supported.

Increasing the budgets for research and development in universities and research institutes that would involve women is of particular importance.

#### Measure 2.6. Elimination of discriminatory constitutiveness of peoples and social inclusion of national minorities, primarily of Roma

##### a) Consistent implementation of elimination of discrimination of peoples in the sense of equal rights in the entire territory of BiH, regardless of ethnic, religious affiliation, or simply civic orientation.

This would require amending the Constitution and Election Law in line with the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights from Strasbourg. The BiH Constitution has proven to be discriminatory regarding the rights of constitutive peoples in the entities, cantons or municipalities where they are not a majority, regarding the rights of national minorities and the rights of citizens that do not declare either as members of a constitutive people or of a national minority. The principle of constitutiveness of peoples represents an obstacle to the development of BiH as a modern democratic state. More than ten years after the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg passed this historic decision and assessed the BiH Constitution as discriminatory, its amendments have not yet been developed, in spite of the Council of Europe's Resolution on BiH and the European Commission's Opinion of May 2019.

##### b) Significantly increase integration of the Roma population in education and the labor market - Roma

Despite advances in the legislative and institutional sense, in adoption of strategic documents and action plans, Roma in BiH still face prejudice, intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion in their everyday life. Roma are the most numerous, most neglected, and most vulnerable minority in BiH, while the living conditions of most Roma families in BiH may be qualified as a state of chronic, multidimensional poverty. From the standpoint of social exclusion, Roma are in the worst position in every aspect of life.

A consistent implementation of strategic documents adopted both in BiH and in the FBiH, with close monitoring and reporting, is essential. Active employment measures on the FBiH and cantonal level need to be intensified, as well as the programs of education, training, upskilling, etc.

Local levels, which are closest to the real problems of the Roma population, have considerable responsibilities and possibilities to act in accordance with their competences, including adoption of action plans to improve the position of the Roma, starting with entry into birth registers, mapping of

Roma, preschool and subsequent education, integration into the labor market, housing support, dedicated budget support for strengthening Roma nongovernmental organizations, etc.

A special set of activities should focus on building awareness among the Roma population about the importance of education, options for improving housing standards, better health, generally that they can do better, with important roles for the media and nongovernmental organizations.

### 1.3 Priority Objective 3: Development of strategic documents of importance for social inclusion

Numerous strategic documents (and legal solutions) regulating different areas are not implemented. One should hope that the adoption of legislative proposals on development planning and development management, decrees of development of strategic documents, on evaluation and monitoring, as well as by building development planning capacities on all levels in the FBiH, will result in a qualitative leap in the implementation of adopted plans. Priority Objective 3 envisages development of planning documents whose adoption has already been mandated, and the work on both preparation and drafting of these documents should commence in a timely fashion, which is why they are here listed as a separate objective, because of importance of these activities for marginalized groups and social inclusion.

#### 3.1. FBiH 2021-2027 Action Plan for Children

Development of the Action Plan for Children is a requirement that arises from the BiH Action Plan for Children, and it should more closely define the measures to safeguard human rights of children in the FBiH; measures related to education, healthcare, social protection, to special forms of protection of children, measures for children from vulnerable groups, as well as reporting and coordination. Another obligation of the FBiH is to establish a Council for Development of Children, and to secure budget funding for the Council's operations. Development of action plans for children is also an obligation of both the cantons and municipalities. UNICEF's recently completed comprehensive Situation Analysis of Children in BiH (March 2020), as well as the State of Children's Rights in BiH (May 2020), constitute valuable basis for the plans' development.

#### 3.2. 2021-2027 Strategy for Youth in the FBiH

The FBiH Law on Youth<sup>131</sup> governs institutional and budget aspects of the implementation of youth policy on all levels of government: from the state to line ministries to cantons and municipalities. Pursuant to this law, public administration bodies on all levels of government are entrusted with supporting youth, as well as with adoption and implementation of youth strategies. Also, Article 14 of the Law stipulates that cantonal, city, and municipal authorities shall ensure a minimum of measures related to working with youth and youth action plans, as well as the mechanisms and capacities for their implementation.

Earlier attempts to draft and adopt the Youth Strategy in the FBiH failed to produce an adopted document. It is necessary to initiate a process of Strategy development whose deadlines will be aligned with the strategic planning dynamic both in the EU and in the FBiH. The Strategy ought to treat youth issues in the spirit of the Agenda 2030. A separate youth report about the Agenda 2030 („Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development“, from January 2019) examines intersections of the Agenda 2030's purpose and global youth development efforts and offers insights into the role of young people in sustainable development and implementation of the Agenda 2030 and SDGs.

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<sup>131</sup> FBiH Law on Youth („FBiH Official Gazette,“ no. 36/10)

### 3.3. 2021 -2027 Employment Strategy in the FBiH

The 2020-2022 Reform Program (BiH Council of Ministers, January 2020) envisaged preparation of an employment strategy for 2020-2022, but, because of the extremely complex situation related to the consequences of measures to combat the spread of COVID-19, it has become necessary to prepare a comprehensive employment strategy that would include both urgent employment measures for the short term (one year), and for the longer term – the duration of the strategy period. The plans may include public works in order to provide work for as many of the unemployed as possible.

### 3.4. Advancement of the rights and status of persons with disabilities in the FBiH 2022-2027

The Strategy of Advancement of the Rights and Status of Persons with Disabilities, which lasts until 2022, represents a sweeping framework that covers all segments of importance for the lives of persons with disabilities, and its implementation should continue. For the 2022-2027 period, it is necessary to prepare an Action Plan (pursuant to the Decree on Tri-Annual and Annual Planning, Monitoring and Reporting in the FBiH, „FBiH Official Gazette“ no. 17/19), which will precisely link activities with the work programs of competent institutions on both the FBiH and cantonal level, define their relationship with the budget framework and other sources of funding, and determine the frequency of monitoring and reporting in line with adopted tracking and evaluation indicators.

### 3.5 Preparation of the Gender Plan on all levels in the FBiH

The requirement to prepare the Gender Action Plan (GAP) was established (in Art. 24) of the Law on Gender Equality, and it is referred to as a strategy that defines programmatic objectives to achieve gender equality in all areas of social life and work, in both public and private sphere. For the next period, the GAP should be prepared on all levels of the FBiH following the adopted methodology from the Decree on Tri-Annual and Annual Planning, Monitoring and Reporting in the FBiH.

### 3.6. Update and adopt the Strategy of Advancement of the Status of the Elderly in the FBiH

The Draft 2018-2027 Strategy of Advancement of the Status of the Elderly in the FBiH was prepared in July 2018, but has never been adopted in the Parliament. The Strategy encompassed key issues of importance in the lives of third-age population: issues related to poverty, healthcare services, housing and living conditions, aging in rural and economically vulnerable areas, social protection, lifelong learning, active involvement of the elderly in the community, prevention of violence, neglect and abuse of the elderly by their relatives or other persons in the community, social attitudes toward the elderly, as well as the intergenerational solidarity. The Strategy ought to be upgraded in line with the methodology for development planning in the FBiH.

### 3.7. Strategy of Disaster Risk Mitigation for Sustainable Development

Preparation of the Strategy of Disaster Risk Mitigation for Sustainable Development is nowadays more crucial than ever. The risks which we live in and which we face impose a preparation of this strategy on the level of both the FBiH and cantons, with special tasks on municipal level, in line with their respective competences. Effects of climate change and disasters affect marginalized groups in different ways. That is why strategic action should take into account particular vulnerabilities of these populations to create suitable support systems adapted to their needs.

It is recommended that the Strategy includes: a risk and vulnerability assessment, with a focus on the vulnerable populations, economic and social aspects of risk, and capacities of social systems of disaster response and recovery; risk planning and risk information; risk insurance; adapted system of

social protection and social services; an early warning system, investments in disaster protection and rescue systems adapted to the needs and particular character of most vulnerable groups.

## 2. Strategic Objective 2: Improve the system of social protection

### 2.1 Priority objective 1. Reform of the social protection system

The reform of the system of social protection that would lead to reduction of poverty and social exclusion requires a novel approach: development of active social protection, which is not social assistance but social support for equal position of the poor and marginalized in the society. The reform of the social protection system signifies a shift from the passive system of social transfer towards an active policies of social investment and social inclusion. In this context, to reduce social inclusion through reform and development of social protection, it is important to focus on several key segments.

#### Measure 1.1. Alignment of the legislative framework

On the level of the FBiH, there are proposals for alignment of existing laws and adoption of new ones, while final adoption of the laws that are currently at the stage of public consultations is expected by end-2020. The FBiH Government's 2020 Work Program, includes plans for important substantive and subordinate regulations which the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy systematized by the Ministry's adopted strategic objectives.<sup>132</sup> The proposed legal amendment should address the following issues:

- „the issue of a lack of harmonization, alignment, and coordination of the legal framework at the FBiH level should be addressed by adoption of four new laws that would separately regulate the areas of social protection, families with children, civilian victims of war and persons with disabilities;
- In the FBiH Law on the Foundations of Social Protection, as social protection beneficiaries, in addition to the existing ones, include as beneficiaries also: children with disabilities, children on the move, children at risk, children victims of violence, children victims of labor exploitation, children victims of trafficking, unaccompanied children, families at risk, and single parents, which would establish the legal basis for their protection;
- consider creating preconditions for transferring social protection competences to municipalities through amendments to existing regulations governing this area;
- With a special Law on Social Services, regulate citizens' rights to social services, define types and scope of social services, social service beneficiaries, social service providers, modalities of pricing social services, oversight, penalties, sources of funding for social services, as well as other matters;
- Wage replacement benefits for employed young mothers should be removed from social protection by basing the eligibility for this benefit on the labor law regulations, or by creation of a separate Fund for Protection of Families with Children, to be financed by a special contribution. Set a single level of benefits on the FBiH level for unemployed young mothers.“<sup>133</sup>

#### Measure 1.2. Development of infrastructure and competences of social protection service providers

<sup>132</sup> For more detail, see: Program rada Vlade Federacije za 2020, Sarajevo, December 2019, Proponent: FBiH Development Programming Institute, available at: <https://parlamentfbih.gov.ba/v2/userfiles/file/Materijali%20u%20proceduri%202020/Program%20rada%20Vlade%20FBiH%20za%202020%20godinu.pdf>, p. 111

<sup>133</sup> Sarajevo Canton Government, Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Labor, Social Policy, Displaced Persons, and Refugees: Analiza pravnog i institucionalnog okvira u Kantonu Sarajevo u svrhu smanjenja siromaštva i socijalne isključenosti u Kantonu Sarajevo, Sarajevo, July 2017, p. 80

Strengthening infrastructure and competences of social protection service providers is of major importance for improving beneficiaries' access to services. To this end, efforts need to be made to improve the quality of services through potential introduction of new models of service provision (e.g., deinstitutionalization of social protection, offering social protection in the community, etc.). In this regard, in accordance with the adopted 2014-2020 Strategy of Deinstitutionalization and Transformation of Social Protection Institutions in the FBiH, the Action Plan for the Strategy's implementation should be prepared and implemented to improve quality of life, ensure non-discrimination, ensure protection of human rights and freedoms for all social protection beneficiaries through a transition from institutional to social protection in the community.

The new system of social protection requires a new approach to protection of beneficiaries (primarily children without parental care, children and families at risk, persons with disabilities, and the elderly) which needs to be implemented in local communities through the development of social services outside the system's institutions and through development of partnerships and intersectoral cooperation with healthcare, education and other institutions, and with the NGO sector.

The FBiH Government's Work Program assigned for the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy the following strategic objective: Strategic Objective 3: Develop an effective, sustainable and fair system of social protection and protection of families with children, which would safeguard fundamental and equal rights of socially vulnerable categories, which includes a special operational objective: 3.4: Build professional capacities of service providers in the system of social and child protection<sup>134</sup>, which envisages, in addition to legislative solutions, an array of trainings and learning activities in the social and child protection institutions.<sup>135</sup>

In addition, it would be necessary to secure (spatial and financial) preconditions to employ professional staff pursuant to the Rule Book on Standards for Operation and Service Provision in Social Protection Institutions in the FBiH, and the relevant job classification should be fully aligned with the provisions of this rule book.

#### Measure 1.3. Improved targeting of beneficiaries

To create a more effective social protection system, better targeting of public expenditures for social protection is required to meet the needs of those living in poverty or facing social exclusion, and to secure a minimum level of income needed for a dignified existence. In this regard, it is also necessary to improve the system of identification and tracking of vulnerable and families at risk.

The reform of the social assistance targeting system should be conducted so that eligibility is based on needs rather than the status of beneficiaries. This is why it is necessary to determine a minimum social security amount and apply program interventions and benefits, including cash and in-kind transfers, channelled to households in vulnerable categories, such as single parents, family with more children, persons with disabilities and chronic diseases, internally displaced persons and returnees.

Efficiency and effectiveness of social assistance targeting based on means testing should be improved through integration of databases, improved controls and evidence-based measures.

#### Measure 1.4. Study feasibility of introducing universal basic income (as a minimum of social security)

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<sup>134</sup> Ibidem, p. 122

<sup>135</sup> The FBiH Ministry of Labor and Social Policy is already implementing two staff training programs in centers for social work/social protection agencies in the FBiH and in cantonal ministries with competence over the field of social and child protection. One is the Programme of Basic and Follow-on Training of Foster Care Providers in the FBiH (2018), and the other is the Programme of Specialized Training of Staff in Centers of Social Work in the FBiH for Working with Children and Families of Veterans of Foreign Wars (October 2020).

A major global debate is underway about universal basic income, with several countries testing this innovative measure to examine results and understand effects. Universal basic income for all citizens without any difference is considered as a response to economic globalization and inevitable mobility and flexibility expected in the market, as well as the insecurity inflicted on individuals. In addition, the basic income, which is not the same as a social transfer on the basis of vulnerability, would help create basic preconditions for dignified life, such as a shelter, food and hygiene. In the long run, it could replace most social transfers, particularly those that are not linked with multiple vulnerability. It is also projected that its introduction would obviate the need for numerous bureaucratic departments that currently exist to distribute social transfers. As a rule, this measure should be funded directly through taxes, i.e., from the public budget, while alternative sources of funding would take away its purpose. The idea is not to fund an additional transfer, but to replace what exists with a better solution.<sup>136</sup>

This idea is of major importance for both the FBiH and BiH, since the FBiH does not have a guaranteed (national) pension for people over certain age, irrespective of their work status. Namely, the socio-economic situation of the elderly in the FBiH is unfavorable, as a result of the low level of pension benefits (two-thirds of the elderly pensioners receive either minimum or guaranteed pensions) and insufficient coverage of the elderly by pension insurance. Vulnerable groups of employees are also outside insurance schemes, including those for whom employees pay no social security contributions, or these are paid only intermittently, employees for whom employers pay only minimum contributions, workers with fixed-term and half-time contracts, self-employed, etc. It is likely that these groups will produce the new poor and socially included in the future..

#### Measure 1.5. Integrating socio-economic databases

For integration of socio-economic databases and development of a digital system of benefit payment, it is necessary to introduce a system of citizen identification with social cards. With this enhancement of the management information system and development of digital social services, the excessive administrative burden in the social protection system would be eliminated. Social protection instruments, such as social cards, simplified and automated beneficiary registration and verification procedures, updated and integrated databases of beneficiaries of social assistance and social insurance from employment, developed disbursement system and operational rules that would allow adaptation in emergency situations – all these would not only improve social assistance targeting in normal circumstances, but would also allow systems to cost-effectively and quickly expand coverage at a time of crisis.

Information from databases of multiple ministries are used to develop social cards, to gather updated information not only about the beneficiaries of social assistance programs, but also about the general population. A developed system of social cards can help establish which groups of the population are particularly affected by effects of a crisis and might permit fast-tracking of approval of their eligibility for inclusion in support programs.

## 2.2 Priority objective 2: Labor activation and employment

Increasing public allocation for more effective active employment measures (counselling, reskilling), sustainability of funding sources and increased effectiveness of implemented programs (through monitoring and impact assessment) should be the primary focus of activation policy. This requires efforts on improving the cooperation of public employment bureaus with employers and other institutions (education and training centers, private agencies, international organizations, etc.) through formation of local/regional employment partnerships, and further development of staff, management and IT capacities of public employment bureaus. The combination of (active and

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<sup>136</sup> Source: <http://socijalnoukljucivanje.gov.rs/rs/po-meri-coveka-drustvena-inovacija/>, accessed on 20 September 2020.

passive) employment measures in the labor market is crucial to boost employability of the unemployed, and the measures for reducing unemployment of hard-to-employ categories deserve greater attention. These, among others, include developing the systems of identification, preparation for work (upskilling and reskilling), employment, support and tracking of vulnerable categories, cooperation with employers, etc.

An essential prerequisite to strengthen the intermediation function of public employment bureaus is transferring of health care insurance for the unemployed from employment bureaus.

The unemployment benefit disbursement system should be reformed to be more inclusive and to cover persons who earn livelihoods in the informal economy, persons employed on temporary contracts, persons performing seasonal work, and those working on fixed-term contracts, and these benefits should be gradually phased out as the recovery strengthens, combined with active employment measures that will be developed in the meantime.

### 2.3 Priority objective 3: Social innovation

In the European Union's funding policies and programs, social innovation is recognized as a vital contribution to strengthening of social cohesion, which is weakened by crisis and increased social vulnerability. In its policies, the European Union emphasizes social innovation. Even the Europe 2020 Strategy to a considerable extent relied on social innovation on the path to achieving the major aspects of Europe's development – employment, innovation, education and social inclusion.

Social innovation starts with the premise that it could partially bridge the funding issues of local social programs and reinforce social cohesion. Traditional social policies have a limited impact on social vulnerability, while innovative policies generate positive effects and reduce the probabilities of sliding into vulnerability. Here the focus is on the role of social innovation in local social systems as a contribution to the effectiveness of social policies.

Social innovation aids in social integration and contributes to social cohesion, therefore acting preemptively in terms of new social risks. It alters the social policy culture and influence development of binding social capital.

Social innovation's main goal is to seek solutions for social problems: by identification and provision of new services that improve quality of life of individuals and communities, by identification and implementation of processes of integration into the labor market, by new capabilities, new jobs and new forms of participation, as diverse elements that contribute to improving the position of individuals.

Social innovation might be a practice, a process, a product, a service, a business model, a novel organizational form, instrument and methodology, or a mix of all of the above, whose purpose is to offer a better response to an unmet need or social problem.<sup>137</sup>

Social innovation relies on innovativeness of citizens, civil society, local communities, business sector and public employees, as well as of the service sector. Opportunities are created for civil society, public sector and the market, to ensure that products and services better address the needs of individuals and expectations of the community. In this regard, it represents „an element fo social change which creates new social facts, i.e., shapes the behavior of citizens or certain social groups in a recognizable fashion with an orientation towards objectives that are not primarily economic.

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<sup>137</sup> According to: Aleksandra Vladislavljević, „Društvene inovacije ljudi u centru javnih politika“, the Republic of Serbia Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Team, November 2019

It is assumed that social innovation will keep gaining importance, not just for addressing social issues, but from the standpoint of the society as a whole. If we want to face critical social problems, there must exist an institutionalized space for social innovation that will include recognition and support for social innovation, but also gauging of their impact. Note that positive cooperation or partnership of multiple sectors (i.e., government, market, and civil society) is crucial for effective addressing of social issues.<sup>138</sup>

From the institutional perspective, a Social Innovation Fund should be created to provide incentives for social innovation projects. Portugal represents an excellent example of the effectiveness of such a program, as in 2014 the country placed a strong emphasis on social innovation within the framework of its policy for recovering from the 2008 global crisis, and nowadays, for its achievements, it is used all across Europe as an example of good practice of social inclusion and reduction of inequality.<sup>139</sup>

It bears mentioning that this is a complex policy measure that may be planned for the long run, as it requires at least a year of study, analysis and design and probably another year of capacity preparations, but then it would become sustainable and it would constitute an excellent development instrument more adaptable to crisis conditions than the „traditional“ economy.

Focus of social innovation can vary greatly: sustainable jobs and businesses, uneven regional development, social inequities, discrimination and social exclusion, resource management and environmental protection, accountability of the business sector to the community, population aging, inward and outward migrations, access to services in the community, etc.

Social innovation seeks answers to social problems by identifying and offering new services that enhance the quality of daily lives of individuals and communities. People and their needs must be placed at the focus of policies. Only then it becomes evident that substantive change in the quality of life occurs when the multi-layered character of problems is recognized and measures are designed to address such problems. Then sector boundaries disappear and the problem becomes common, as well as the process of its resolution.

### 3. Strategic objective 3: Strengthening territorial cohesion

One of the EU's core goals is strengthening of its economic, social and territorial cohesion. A significant portion of EU activities and budget is devoted to the reduction of regional differences, with a particular emphasis on rural areas, areas impacted by industrial transition and regions that face severe and lasting natural disasters or demographic difficulties.

The EU supports achievement of these goals through European structural and investment funds, including the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, while the European Social Fund is the Union's main instrument to support measures for prevention and fighting unemployment, human resource development and promotion of social integration in the labor market. It funds initiatives that support increasing employment, equal opportunities for men and women, sustainable development and economic and social cohesion.<sup>140</sup>

Territorial cohesion is generally perceived as an integral part, it is complementary with the goals of economic and social cohesion and aims to promote harmonious and homogeneous development of

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<sup>138</sup> According to: Gojko Bežovan et al.: „Socijalne inovacije kao doprinos jačanju socijalne kohezije i ublažavanju socijalne krize u europskim urbanim socijalnim programima“, Pregledni rad UDK: 364.46:364.467, doi: 10.3935/rsp.v23i1.1279, Zagreb, 2015. Available at: [file:///C:/Users/HOME/Downloads/04\\_Bezovan%20\(1\).PDF](file:///C:/Users/HOME/Downloads/04_Bezovan%20(1).PDF)

<sup>139</sup> Source: Dr. Slobodan Cvejić: „Pandemija COVID 19 i društvene nejednakosti - Od distributivne ka razvojnoj politici podrške“, MONS Belgrade, 7 May 2020

<sup>140</sup> <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets/hr/sheet/93/ekonomska-socijalna-i-teritorijalna-kohezija>

the entire territory. Today, the general agreement is that territorial cohesion is a multidimensional concept with at least three components:

- territorial quality: quality of life and working environment; comparable standards across the territory; consistent (similar) approach to services of common interest and to knowledge;
- territorial effectiveness; efficiency of utilization of resources, with respect for energy, land and natural resources; competitiveness of economic structures and attractiveness of local areas; interior and exterior accessibility;
- territorial identity: existence of social capital; possibility of development of a shared vision of the future; local know-how and specific, productive occupations and competitive advantages of each area.<sup>141</sup>

Today, social inclusion should also be considered from the standpoint of territorial, economic and social cohesion. Every citizen of the FBiH is entitled to equal conditions, opportunities and choices across the entire territory of the FBiH, without discrimination. This is a social inclusion vision of development. To succeed, we need to achieve the following priority objectives:

### 3.2 Priority objective 1: Balanced regional development

The FBiH exhibits pronounced imbalances in its level of development and between its regions, cantons, cities, and municipalities. Non-existence of a policy of balanced development is one of the reasons, and the FBiH never adopted the 2008-2028 FBiH Spatial Plan, which would be a tool to guide policentric development of the FBiH.

Absent a set spatial economic policy, the development gap between favorable and unfavorable locations will continue to deepen, which is detrimental to overall economic, social and spatial development. Then key infrastructural projects (roads, Internet access, linking towns and villages with the cities) do not happen, and the pressure on larger cities increases... At the same time, villages are abandoned, and emigration intensifies. The consequences of the pandemic and measures to counter COVID-19 will only widen the development gaps and channel (both external and domestic) assistance where it is most needed (which again inflicts social exclusion upon citizens).

Disparities in the development of the FBiH between municipalities, regions, and cantons, and huge differences basic living and working conditions between FBiH citizens impose one of the basic development strategies which should be incorporated into the strategic development plan: narrowing development gaps between municipalities and cantons, i.e., a better balanced spatial development of the FBiH, in combination with an acceleration of the overall development of the FBiH.

The spatial plan represents a possibility to approach the analysis of development disparities with deliberation and on that basis design appropriate policies and measures of the overall development. Then the spatial plan becomes an instrument of management and ordering of a single economic, social, and infrastructural area. In the FBiH there is no independent and professional institution with competence for spatial planning and spatial development, which would prepare (strategic) spatial planning documentation that would serve as framework solutions for the territory of the FBiH.

The following measures are proposed to achieve these objectives:

#### Measure 1.1. Creation of the FBiH Spatial Planning and Development Institute

#### Measure 1.2. Update and adopt the FBiH Spatial Plan for the next long-term period

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<sup>141</sup> Fetahagić, M: Human Development Indicators and Spatial Development and Planning: Opportunities and Challenges, HDCA Conference 2011, the Hague.

## Measure 1.3. Establish the Fund for Balanced Regional Development

### 3.3 Priority objective 2: Rural development

Rural development has proven to be a significant factor of social inclusion, because of great opportunities for labor activation it offers.

The 2018-2021 BiH Strategic Plan of Rural Development – The Framework Document, under its Strategic objective 5 „Improvement of the quality of life in rural areas through creation of new income streams and enhancement of physical infrastructure, social inclusion and accessibility of public services“ declared:

„Support to the income stability of farming households will be provided also through reduction of differences in business environment conditions in the different regions in BiH, but also beyond, through improvement of the age structure and educational attainment of the rural population, diversification of agricultural and non-agricultural activities in rural areas, protection and preservation of natural and cultural heritage, enhancement of infrastructure and services of importance for rural population...

Investments in education, culture and social infrastructure will improve the age structure of the rural population and help slow depopulation of rural areas.

As part of the measures of agrarian and rural policy, improvement of the state of women and youth in rural areas deserves particular attention and additional efforts, through creation of targeted programs of their employment and provision of certain additional incentives within the scope of available support measures.“<sup>142</sup>

It is noteworthy that numerous studies confirm the significance of social entrepreneurship and of cooperatives as a factor of territorial cohesion, with a high degree of positive correlation between lagging regional or rural development and the degree of development of the cooperative sector. Study findings show that cooperatives had the greatest influence on regional development (particularly on social development) in southern and eastern Croatia (particularly on economic development).<sup>143</sup> The project „Women and Sustainable Development – New Employment Opportunities“<sup>144</sup> demonstrated that women are powerful actors in the development of communities and drivers of creation of new opportunities for employment of women, particularly in rural areas of BiH.

In this way, rural development opens opportunities for social inclusion, employment, development of social entrepreneurship in food production, tourism, etc.

### 3.4 Priority objective 3: Development of social statistics and statistical capacity

Despite the progress achieved in the field of statistics in the FBiH, as well as in BiH, which is exhibited through constant development of their capacities and research, particularly through valuable

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<sup>142</sup> BiH Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, BiH Strategic Plan of Rural Development (2018-2021) – Framework Document, December 2018, p. 56, available at:

[http://www.hops.gov.ba/dokumenti/strateski\\_dokumenti\\_na\\_nivou\\_bih/default.aspx?id=533&langTag=bs-BA](http://www.hops.gov.ba/dokumenti/strateski_dokumenti_na_nivou_bih/default.aspx?id=533&langTag=bs-BA)

<sup>143</sup> See: The influence of Cooperatives on Regional and Rural Development of Croatia), authors: Pejnović, Dane; Radeljak Kaufmann, Petra; Lukić, Aleksandar. Source: Hrvatski geografski glasnik (1331-5854) 79 (2017), 2; pp. 51-85

<sup>144</sup> Implementer of this partnership project is ODRAZ (Sustainable Community Development) in partnership with the Croatian Rural Development Network and the Mostar-based REDAH Economic Development Association, which represents the Rural Development Network in BiH. More about the project at: <http://odraz.hr/hr/projekti/aktualni-projekti/zene-i-odrzivi-razvoj-nove-mogucnosti-zaposljavanja>

surveys, this remains insufficient for detailed studies and analyses, and for making informed recommendations and policies.

For social inclusion context, it is crucial that the Household Budget Survey is not implemented and that estimates of absolute poverty, of income inequality in BiH, the entities and BD are not available. Numerous indicators in the domain of social statistics are missing, social exclusion indicators, human development indicators, etc.

Another crucial aspect is that there is no valid base of comparable data on the level of municipalities, cities, cantons, and the FBiH. For instance, the GDP is one of the core indicators of economic development, and GDP/pc is not calculated for the levels below the entities, nor enrolment rates for all levels of education, nor the participation of women in management positions, etc.

Uniformity is essential for presentation of all indicators on the level of municipalities, cities, cantons, entities, District, and the state. Such a database would not only provide the basis for adoption of regional development policies, but would also be an important factor of territorial cohesion.

Strengthening statistics and expanding statistical research is also vital for tracking implementation of SDGs on the local level. Because development only makes sense when the global level is „lowered“ to the local, when it reaches ordinary people. Besides, it is also of crucial importance for considering SDG implementation in global terms.

Hopefully, once BiH gains the EU candidate status, it will become included in the research, i.e., it will become part of the EUROSTAT database.

#### 4. Development accelerators: Development of social entrepreneurship, social enterprises, and creative industries

##### 4.1 Accelerator 1. Development of social entrepreneurship and social enterprises

In the context of social inclusion, social entrepreneurship is a crucial factor of support for agreed strategic objectives. It is a mix of social protection and employment, it has both the economic and social dimension, so it transforms into a strong lever of social inclusion of the excluded, from the unemployed to marginalized groups, which is a key approach in drafting this document. Social entrepreneurship activates passive social protection systems and employment, which is quite critical at the time of a pandemic crisis and the consequences of the measures to combat COVID-19. Thus the time is right to develop policies and measures that would promote social entrepreneurship and mitigate the effects of the pandemic. Instead of non-refundable social assistance transfers, which do not address neither the issue of poverty nor of unemployment, investments should be channelled into social entrepreneurship and self-employment, particularly within marginalized groups, who are in the focus of social inclusion. In that way, they would realize one of the core human rights – right to work and to life worthy of human beings.

Social entrepreneurship represents innovative activities of individuals or groups oriented towards effective addressing of social problems of citizens through creation of productive organizations of a

new type – social enterprises that operate in the market, but use their profits solely to create new jobs and for own development.<sup>145</sup>

Social entrepreneurship prioritizes growing social/human and environmental capital to generation of high profits. It constitutes a market response to the need to address social, environmental, local problems with the overall objective to increase general wellbeing (common good) in society.

Business ventures in social entrepreneurship may be implemented through various status forms (cooperatives, foundations, social companies with limited liability, associations and mutual societies). Social enterprises are recognized by the test whether they meet the economic and social criteria.<sup>146</sup>

Consequently, social entrepreneurship is a social innovation process, a social innovation, in which the state, on one hand, keeps shrinking costly and inefficient public service systems and „welfare state“ policies executed through passive social transfers and replaces them with promotion of integration of people through various social-business ventures. This is a development process through which the civil society sector becomes increasingly independent and self-organized, by developing entrepreneurial competences and in combination with development and support of foundations, ethical banks, social investors, and with support of public policy instruments.

The global importance and visibility of social entrepreneurship has grown in recent decades. The significance of social capital in the business sector is growing, together with the need to fill the gaps created by the failure of public institutions, NGOs and philanthropic organizations to address exploding need for social services. And, while social entrepreneurship is on the rise throughout the world, the pace of its spread vary both between and within regions. Recent estimates indicate that the implementation of the Agenda 2030 will require much higher levels of funding than originally projected, so financially efficient models such as social entrepreneurship, which aid in addressing key challenges of sustainable development are attracting more attention and greater appreciation. Social entrepreneurship strives to create profits with a purpose, by applying sustainable economic logic to achieve social imperatives, while it may complement other public and private efforts – particularly those that seek to address the needs of marginalized segments of society.

The World Youth Report 2020 on Youth Social Entrepreneurship and the 2030 Agenda of January 2020 focuses on social entrepreneurship.<sup>147</sup> The report notes that social entrepreneurship represents an exceptionally promising and socially beneficial option of self-employment for young people, but also it does not release policymakers from their larger duty to address youth needs in a comprehensive and sustainable fashion.

The link between social entrepreneurship and sustainable development cannot be sufficiently emphasized. Nearly simultaneously with a reaffirmation of the concept and practices of modern social entrepreneurship in Europe, as a new force for development, a global awareness is emerging about the indispensability of sustainable development for humanity, which rests on fulfillment of three sets of goals: stable economic development, social sustainability and sustainable exploitation of natural resources, i.e., sustainable treatment of the environment. Social entrepreneurship has a considerable potential precisely in the implementation of the sustainable development concept, as unambiguously recognized by various studies that identified numerous examples of successful action by social enterprises in the sphere of social services, environmental protection, waste treatment, recycling, organic agriculture, etc.

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<sup>145</sup> IBHI: Study „Efekti politike podrške zapošljavanju OSI u FBiH i razvoj novih oblika podrške kroz socijalno poduzetništvo“, Sarajevo, July 2016 p. 5. For definitions of social entrepreneurship and social enterprises, please see: ibidem, p. 7.

<sup>146</sup> For more detail, see: ibidem, p. 10

<sup>147</sup> <https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/world-youth-report.html>

Introduction of market models of maintaining social cohesion and sustainable development represent a new attempt, which should gradually supplant the models of government/public intervention in balancing the social and environmentally acceptable development. This also requires new measurement of added value of business ventures, where the criterion of economic value creation in the form of profits is combined with additional criteria of social and environmental, or socially responsible added value. These novel processes are boosted by mass communications and the possibilities of global networking, by rising level of educational attainment of the population, which permits gradual introduction of socio-economic innovations that emerge through partnerships between the private, public, and civil society sectors.<sup>148</sup>

Starting from the attained level and characteristics of economic development in the FBiH, the most promising areas for social entrepreneurship would be: addressing the issues of unemployment, development of rural areas, inclusion of vulnerable groups (persons with disabilities, unemployed women, minorities, etc.), alleviation of poverty in agriculture, cattle raising, service development (assistance to socially excluded persons), followed by training of the unemployed for easier integration into the labor market and of some small businesses in the domain of production (recycling, bakeries, handicrafts, etc.).

Naturally, in addition to these, other activities may also offer opportunities for development and starting social enterprises, particularly in the area of labor integration, such as, office work, tourism, catering, trade, etc., particularly in creative industries, which are becoming an increasingly important source of value added and employment (particularly for youth – IT sector).

To support the development of social entrepreneurship<sup>149</sup>, the focus should be on: legal environment – legislative framework, enhancing access to finance and increasing visibility of social enterprises.

The Draft 2021-2027 FBiH Development Strategy sets Priority objective 2.5 Reduce poverty and social exclusion, and within it Measure 2.5.4. Improve the status of vulnerable groups in the labor market, in which it is stated:

„Support for development of social entrepreneurship as a model that simultaneously contributes to employment and supports vulnerable groups is a vital driver of employment of vulnerable categories. Under this measure, the area of social entrepreneurship needs to be institutionally and legally ordered to allow and facilitate establishment and operation of social enterprises, simplify access to finance (by creating a center or a fund for development of social entrepreneurship, which could provide basic startup capital for development of social enterprises), further stimulate the private sector to get more actively involved in social employment programs (co-financing of social entrepreneurship programs through provision of mentoring services), offer tax benefits for social enterprises that reinvest their profits into activities that contribute to community development, i.e., tax policy that will favor the development of the concept and activities of social entrepreneurship.

Creation of training programs for public servants who interact with social entrepreneurship is also necessary, as well as public (and media) promotion social entrepreneurship to ensure that this

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<sup>148</sup> The EU project Danube Framework for Responsible Research and Innovation using Socio-Technical Integration (D-STIR). The project objective is, among other things, to exploit advantages of responsible research and innovation (RRI) „for society and with society“ to enhance the environment for innovation in the Danube region, while taking into account innovations' socio-economic effects and promoting integrated social-technical research as a research method. For more details, see: <http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/d-stir>

<sup>149</sup> For more details, ibidem, pp. 55-56.

concept and model is better understood, together with the development of infrastructure, intersectoral cooperation and networking of social entrepreneurs.”<sup>150</sup>

Starting from the above core recommendations, as well as from the objectives and measures established in the draft 2021-2027 FBiH Strategy, the following measures are the lever for development of social entrepreneurship in all its dimensions:

1. Adoption of the Law on Social Entrepreneurship, as an umbrella framework for functioning of social entrepreneurship in line with EU practices

2. Adoption of the Social Entrepreneurship Development Strategy that would set out the development pathways, priority objectives, and business models of social entrepreneurs, modalities of project support with application of a range of different business models (cooperatives, firms for labor integration, foundations, etc.), modalities to support inclusion of socially excluded categories into the active labor market, as well as monitoring, reporting, and evaluation of the established strategy objectives.

#### 4.2 Accelerator 2: Development of creative industries

The importance of creativity and of creative industries<sup>151</sup> for economic development, particularly on the local and regional level, is confirmed by many international organizations, such as UNESCO, European Commission, UNDP, UNDP-UNCTAD, WIPO, etc. In 2010, the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution on culture and development, which recognized creative industries as an important developmental segment for addressing the issue of poverty, strengthening the identity of local communities, creating a better investment climate and more favorable environment for investment in local communities, and to stop migrations toward urban centers. On the EU level, the „Europe 2020“ Strategy strongly underscored the role of creative industries, as a crucial segment of the innovative European economy, in stimulating smart and sustainable development of European countries.

In the EU economies, creative industries are engines of economic growth, employment and innovation policies. They employ around 5.8 million people and account for 3% of the EU gross domestic product, act as a source of new ideas, which enlarges innovation potential of the national economies of the EU Member States, represent innovation policy resources for other economic sectors and thereby contribute to a secondary expansion of innovations, shape their development and boost output.<sup>152</sup>

„Creative Europe“ is a framework program of the European Commission to support and promote the culture and media sector. The proposed 2014-2020 budget of 1.8 billion EUR is the largest amount of support to culture and creative industries in the world. Accession of BiH to the „Creative Europe“ programme, which formally made BiH part of the wider EU creative space, represents an opportunity for many BiH creators in the field of culture, organizations that even before relied on grant funding, co-productions, and various funds. According to current information, to date the FBiH has not made use of the options offered by this programme.

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<sup>150</sup> Noting that this measure targets vulnerable groups in the labor market, while social entrepreneurship in the context of this document applies to all categories.

<sup>151</sup> According to John Howkins, a creative economy could be defined as „a transaction in creative products and services“, with the value of such products rising with the increase in the number of transactions. He classified creative industries into four key pillars: copyright, patent, branding and design, and includes: R&D, publishing, software, TV and radio, design, music, film, toys and games, advertising, architecture, performing arts, crafts, video games, fashion, and art. The full definition, as noted by Richard Florida, is based on the orientation of the Creative Class, who replaces the Working Class. Florida focuses on employment structure and includes in the Creative Class all who are employed/self-employed and who create added value through their creativity.

<sup>152</sup> Source: [https://www.zamp.hr/uploads/documents/KREATIVNA\\_HRVATSKA\\_FINAL\\_PDF.pdf](https://www.zamp.hr/uploads/documents/KREATIVNA_HRVATSKA_FINAL_PDF.pdf)

The perception of significance of culture industry and creative sectors as drivers of development in the FBiH is at a very early stage. Taking into account the potential of the sector as a driver of development, it should be included in development policies on all levels of government and enjoy institutional support. Investment in cultural and creative industries contributes to generation of new employment, reduction of poverty, development of new technologies, and to improving the general quality of life. Creative industries overwhelmingly rely on the local workforce, particularly on those who are most vulnerable to unemployment, i.e., the young people. These sectors are exceptionally resilient and might exhibit growth even at the time of economic hardship, which is why they represent a right response to the crisis.

At present, neither in BiH nor in the FBiH there is any administrative body which recognizes creative industries as part of their competences, and, in this regard, there are no departments nor officials who deal with the matters pertaining to their development in a systematic fashion, let alone implement strategic projects for development of these activities. It would be crucial for political decision-makers to recognize the significance and potential of creative entrepreneurship, as by adopting appropriate measures they can improve the situation of the creative economy in the country.

Studies identified eight dimensions of the economy that are directly affected by creative industries: fight against unemployment, contribution to creation of new value added, reinforcing social inclusion, combatting youth unemployment, promotion of foreign trade, social and cultural development, raising the quality of life, along with other indicators of socio-economic developments. Creative industries do not only contribute to overall development of national economies, but also both regional and local development.<sup>153</sup>

In this manner, creative industries become a supporting force, a factor of implementation of the objectives of the Social Inclusion Strategy, which sustains activation of marginalized groups, and of youth in particular, in combination with social entrepreneurship, social innovation, etc. Creative industries are a conduit that guides social inclusion towards activation. The 2021-2027 FBiH Development Strategy recognizes this in its special Measure 1.3.3. Support development of entrepreneurship in the creative sector, under the Strategic objective 1. Accelerated economic growth.<sup>154</sup>

On the basis of the above analysis and on the proposals contained in the Study „Creative Industries in the Sarajevo Canton“<sup>155</sup>, the development of creative industries, as drivers and instruments of development and social inclusion, should focus on the following:

1. Creation of a regulatory framework for creative industries in the FBiH. primarily in the segment of drafting of legislation, intellectual property protection, tax benefits. etc.
2. Creation of a Foundation for Financing Creative Industry Projects. that would contribute to creative activities, competitiveness, development and employment in creative industries by securing startup financing for preparation and implementation of projects in creative industries; ensure a greater number of applications through providing financial support to applicants for preparation of applications to access EU funding from the „Creative Europe“ program; provide co-financing for applicants to the „Creative Europe“ program or to other institutional funding providers; promote replenishment of the Foundation's resources through partial recovery of invested funds from returns on applicants' successful business ventures.

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<sup>153</sup> According to: Sarajevo Institute of Economics: Kreativna industrija u Kantonu Sarajevo, Sarajevo, 2016, p. 30

<sup>154</sup> Ibidem, p. 25

<sup>155</sup> Ibidem, p. 188

3. Creation of a Creative Industries Center in the FBiH.<sup>156</sup> with the objective to coordinate activities of various creative industries' stakeholders in their mutual relations, relations with the government, with funds, donors, sponsors, and investors, towards NGOs, towards beneficiaries (e.g., tourism), education institutions, the unemployed, marginalized groups (persons with disabilities, women), media and other interested parties active in the creative industry sector in the FBiH.

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<sup>156</sup> In 2018, a Creative Industries Council was established in Serbia. According to March 2020 data, the creative industry sector in Serbia generated 5% of the GDP, with a noticeable upward trend, which puts it nearly at the same level as the tourism sector (6%), agriculture (6%), and construction (4%), while the number of firms operating in some of 80 activities based on talent, ideas, knowledge, and creativity increased by 25% (2016-2018), with 120,000 jobs. Source: <https://www.blic.rs/biznis/kreativne-industrije-u-srbiji-dostizu-poljoprivredu-turizam-i-gradjevinarstvo-brnabic/zdb5pzy>

## 5. An overview of strategic objectives and priorities

|                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Strategic Objective 1: Reduce poverty through social inclusion inkluzijom | 1.1. Priority Objective 1. Short-term objectives as a response to the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Measure 1.1. Develop the programs to prevent inequality in education                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Measure 1.2. Increase funding for education of both teachers and students                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Measure 1.3. Implement the reform of the unemployment cash benefit eligibility system                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Measure 1.4. Measures of social protection and assistance as a response to the crisis for persons below the poverty line or at risk of poverty                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|                                                                           | 1.2. Priority Objective 2: Long-term objectives regarding marginalized groups                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Measure 2.1. Inclusive and quality education. equal rights for every child without discrimination – children                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                | aa) Enhancing preschool education and considerable expansion of enrolment of children in preschool education.<br>b) Reform of elementary and secondary education<br>c) Consistent enforcement of legislative solutions in the area of child protection, along with public policy measures<br>d) Implementation of the concept of inclusive education – children and youth                                                      |
|                                                                           | Measure 2.2. Increase social inclusion of youth                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                | a) Development of key competences of young people in education with a focus on entrepreneurial, innovation and digital competences<br>b) Significantly increase youth employment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                                                                           | Measure 2.3. Increase community contribution and quality of life of persons in the third age of life                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                | a) Recognizing value of the older generation as invaluable social capital<br>b) Development of housing infrastructure for third-age persons                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                                                                           | Measure 2.4. Increase independence of persons with disabilities and their active involvement and participation in all areas of life and work. without discrimination                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                | a) Consistent implementation of the Operational Program of the 2016-2021 Strategy for Improvement of the Rights and Status of Persons with Disabilities in the FBiH<br>b) Introduce incentives to continuously promote employment opportunities for persons with disabilities<br>c) Eliminate discrimination of persons with disabilities on the basis of the cause of disability in terms of the range and level of benefits. |
|                                                                           | Measure 2.5. Strengthen social inclusion of women into society. primarily by strengthening competences, by education, participation in policymaking, and discrimination-free participation in the labor market |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                | a) Achieve equal gender representation in policy- and decision-making on all levels of government                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

|                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                  | organization.<br>b) Eliminate gender-based discrimination in work. Employment, and the labor market, and secure equal opportunities for women and men in access to economic resources<br>c) Creating equal opportunities for inclusive education for all, free of gender discrimination                                 |
|                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                  | Measure 2.6. Elimination of discriminatory constitutiveness of peoples and social inclusion of national minorities, primarily of Roma                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                  | a) Consistent implementation of elimination of discrimination of peoples in the sense of equal rights in the entire territory of BiH, regardless of ethnic, religious affiliation, or simply civic orientation<br>b) Significantly increase integration of the Roma population in education and the labor market - Roma |
|                                                                                                                        | 1.3. Priority Objective 3: Development of strategic documents of importance for social inclusion |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                  | 3.1. FBiH 2021-2027 Action Plan for Children                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                  | 3.2. 2021-2027 Strategy for Youth in the FBiH                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                  | 3.3. 2021 -2027 Employment Strategy in the FBiH                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                  | 3.4. Advancement of the rights and status of persons with disabilities in the FBiH 2022-2027                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                  | 3.5 Preparation of the BiH Gender Plan on all levels in the FBiH                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                  | 3.6. Update and adopt the Strategy of Advancement of the Status of the Elderly in the FBiH                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                  | 3.7. Strategy of Disaster Risk Mitigation for Sustainable Development                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Strategic Objective 2: Improve the system of social protection</b>                                                  | 2.1. Priority objective 1: Reform of the social protection system                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                  | Measure 1.1. Alignment of the legislative framework                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                  | Measure 1.2. Development of infrastructure and competences of social protection service providers                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                  | Measure 1.3. Improved targeting of beneficiaries                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                  | Measure 1.4. Study feasibility of introducing universal basic income (as a minimum of social security)                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                  | Measure 1.5. Integrating socio-economic databases                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|                                                                                                                        | 2.2. Priority objective 2: Labor activation and employment                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Strategic Objective 3: Strengthening territorial cohesion</b>                                                       | 2.3. Priority objective 3: Social innovation                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                                                                                                        | 3.1. Priority objective 1: Balanced regional development                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                  | Measure 1.1. Creation of the FBiH Spatial Planning and Development Institute                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                  | Measure 1.2. Update and adopt the FBiH Spatial Plan for the next long-term period                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                  | Measure 1.3. Establish the Fund for Balanced Regional Development                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|                                                                                                                        | 3.2. Priority objective 2: Rural development                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                                                                                                        | 3.3. Priority objective 3: Development of social statistics and statistical capacity             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Development accelerators: : Development of social entrepreneurship, social enterprises, and creative industries</b> | Accelerator 1. Development of social entrepreneurship and social enterprises                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                  | Measure 1. Adoption of the Law on Social Entrepreneurship                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                  | Measure 2. Adoption of the Social Entrepreneurship Development Strategy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|                                                                                                                        | Accelerator 2: Development of creative industries                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                  | Measure 1. Creation of a regulatory framework for creative industries in the FBiH                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                  | Measure 2. Creation of a Foundation for Financing Creative Industry Projects                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

|  |                                                                 |
|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | Measure 3. Creation of a Creative Industries Center in the FBiH |
|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------|

## 6. Harmonization with other strategic documents

The FBiH Social Inclusion Development Strategy heavily draws on the Agenda 2030 and SDGs, and has a particular relationship with the 2020-2022 BiH Economic Reform Program adopted in January 2020. In addition, this Strategy is being developed during the preparation of the integral 2021-2027 FBiH Development Strategy. The following overview summarizes the links with these strategic documents.

### Strategic objective 1: Reduce poverty through social inclusion

**Table 49. Alignment of Strategic Objective 1 with higher-level strategic documents**

| Strategic documents                              | Objectives/measures in strategic documents                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Agenda 2030 and UN SDGs                          | SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                  | SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all                                                                                 |
|                                                  | SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls                                                                                                                              |
|                                                  | SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all                                                                |
|                                                  | SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries                                                                                                                                        |
|                                                  | SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable                                                                                                        |
|                                                  | SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts                                                                                                                         |
|                                                  | SDG 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels |
| 2020-2022 BiH Economic Reform Program – Measures | Measure: 5.3.1.2. Improve energy efficiency and utilization of renewable energy sources                                                                                                    |
|                                                  | Measure: 5.3.2.1. Enhance competitiveness of agriculture, forestry, and water management                                                                                                   |
|                                                  | 1.3.6.1. Improve links between education and the labor market                                                                                                                              |
| 2021-2027 FBiH Strategy, draft - Measures        | 2.1.1. Improve quality of higher education, scientific research, and scientific infrastructure                                                                                             |
|                                                  | 2.1.2. Improve the quality of preschool, elementary, and secondary education for development purposes and ensure inclusive education for all                                               |
|                                                  | 2.1.3. Develop a functional system of adult education and lifelong learning                                                                                                                |
|                                                  | 2.1.4. Stimulate educational institutions to offer higher-quality education and more practical work in the ICT field                                                                       |
|                                                  | 2.1.5. Strengthen work with the talented and raise student standard                                                                                                                        |
|                                                  | 2.3.1. Stimulate birth rate and protection of families with children                                                                                                                       |
|                                                  | 2.3.2. Promote reproductive health and the field of early growth and development of children                                                                                               |
|                                                  | 2.3.3. Improve housing policies                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                                  | 2.3.4. Promote tolerance, non-violence and gender equality in the family and society and develop social inclusion programs                                                                 |
|                                                  | 2.5.2. Increase social inclusion of marginalized groups                                                                                                                                    |

### Strategic objective 2: Improve the system of social protection

**Table 50. Alignment of Strategic Objective 2 with higher-level strategic documents**

| Strategic documents     | Objectives/measures in strategic documents                                |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Agenda 2030 and UN SDGs | SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere                             |
|                         | SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full |

|                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                | and productive employment, and decent work for all                                                                                                                                         |
|                                                | SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure. promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation                                                                           |
|                                                | SDG10 Reduce inequalities within and among countries                                                                                                                                       |
|                                                | SDG13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts                                                                                                                          |
|                                                | SDG16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions and all levels |
| 2020-2022 BiH Economic Reform Program–Measures | 5.3.1.1. Development of energy and gas markets                                                                                                                                             |
|                                                | 5.3.2.3. Reduction of pollution and shift towards circular economy                                                                                                                         |
|                                                | 5.3.3.2. Creation of an electronic signature system                                                                                                                                        |
|                                                | 5.3.3.5. Reduction of the informal economy                                                                                                                                                 |
|                                                | 5.3.4.2. Introduction of a more effective system for management of research and development capacities                                                                                     |
|                                                | 5.3.6.1. Strengthening links of education and the labor market                                                                                                                             |
|                                                | 5.3.7.1. Increasing labor market efficiency                                                                                                                                                |
|                                                | 5.3.8.1. Improvement of the social protection system                                                                                                                                       |
| 2021-2027 FBiH Strategy. draft - Measures      | 2.4.1. Develop and implement effective activation and active labor market policies                                                                                                         |
|                                                | 2.4.2. Create preconditions for adequate supply in the labor market                                                                                                                        |
|                                                | 2.4.3. Strengthen the intermediation function of public employment services                                                                                                                |
|                                                | 2.5.1. Improve social protection targeting                                                                                                                                                 |
|                                                | 2.5.3. Improve inter-sectoral cooperation. infrastructure and competences of social protection service providers                                                                           |
|                                                | 2.5.4. Improve the position of vulnerable groups in the labor market                                                                                                                       |

### Strategic objective 3: Strengthening territorial cohesion

**Table 51. Alignment of Strategic Objective 3 with higher-level strategic documents**

| Strategic documents                            | Objectives/measures in strategic documents                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Agenda 2030 and UN SDGs                        | SDG 8 Promote sustained. inclusive. and sustainable economic growth. full and productive employment. and decent work for all |
|                                                | SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls                                                                |
|                                                | SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure. promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation              |
|                                                | SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries                                                                          |
| 2020-2022 BiH Economic Reform Program–Measures | 5.3.1.3. Development and improvement of transport infrastructure                                                             |
|                                                | 5.3.2.1. Enhancement of competitiveness of agriculture. forestry. and water management                                       |
| 2021-2027 FBiH Strategy. draft - Measures      | 2.2.1. Enhance the approach and reduce inequality in healthcare services                                                     |

### Development accelerators: Development of social entrepreneurship and social enterprises and Creative industries

**Table 52 Alignment of social inclusion development accelerators with higher-level strategic documents**

| Strategic documents                            | Objectives/measures in strategic documents                                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Agenda 2030 and UN SDGs                        | SDG 8 Promote sustained. inclusive. and sustainable economic growth. full and productive employment, and decent work for all                     |
|                                                | SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure. promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation                                  |
| 2020-2022 BiH Economic Reform Program–Measures | 5.3.2.2. Improve the existing legal framework that governs the sector of tourism, tourist guides, tourist associations. sojourn tax and catering |
|                                                | 5.3.3.1. Strengthen the quality infrastructure system in BiH on the EU model                                                                     |
|                                                | 5.3.4.1. Strengthen the sector of communications and information society with alignment of the regulatory framework with EU standards            |
| 2021-2027 FBiH Strategy. draft - Measures      | 2.1.4. Motivate educational institutions to offer higher-quality education and more practical work in the ICT field                              |

## 7. Modality of the Strategy implementation

Adoption and implementation of strategic documents in the FBiH is governed by the Law on Development Planning and Development Management, Decree on Three-Annual and Annual Work Planning, Monitoring and Reporting in the FBiH, and Decree on Evaluation of Strategic Documents in the FBiH.

The Social Inclusion Strategy in the FBiH has been prepared by experts, and the next steps in the Strategy's implementation are the matter for and in competence of the institutions in the FBiH, primarily of the FBiH Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and the European Integrations Bureau of the FBiH Government. In the context of observance of adopted procedures and methodologies of preparation of strategic documents, this document is offered as a basis, a strategic platform for all further activities, and for continuation of the work on the Social Inclusion Strategy, as a sector strategy. This implies direct involvement of the competent institutions in conducting public consultations, development of an indicative financial framework, of indicators for monitoring the implementation of the Strategy, and subsequently of evaluations, monitoring and annual progress reporting. The annual development report is an implementing document which reviews general development trends as well as the progress in attainment of strategic objectives set by the strategic documents in the FBiH.

The relevant legislation stipulates that, when developing their tri-annual and annual work plans, government bodies on all levels are required to adopt respectively appropriate measures, together with indicators, as well as baseline and target values for each year in the three-year period. In this way the strategy is linked with the Framework Budget Document, i.e., with the Budget. Then it becomes mandatory, as a part of the Budget and Law on Budget Execution. Simultaneously, incorporation of various programs and measures of the Strategy into the work programs of the FBiH Government, line ministries and institutions, as implementing agencies, also guarantees its implementation.

## Annex- statistical indicators

### 1. MACROECONOMIC INDICATORS

Table 1.1 GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT FOR BiH and FBiH, current prices

|                                         | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  |
|-----------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| GDP for BiH, mil KM <sup>1)</sup>       | 26779 | 27359 | 28589 | 29904 | 31376 | 33444 |
| GDP for Federation of BiH <sup>2)</sup> | 17379 | 17827 | 18688 | 19540 | 20540 | 21984 |

1 ) Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH: Gross domestic product by production, income and expenditure approach, TB 01, 2020

2 ) Source: Institute for Statistics of the FBiH: Gross Domestic Product, Statistical Bulletin 302, 2018.

Table 1.2. SHARE OF FBiH GDP in BiH GDP (%)

|                                         | 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   |
|-----------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| GDP for BiH <sup>1)</sup>               | 100,00 | 100,00 | 100,00 | 100,00 | 100,00 | 100,00 |
| GDP for Federation of BiH <sup>2)</sup> | 64,90  | 65,16  | 65,37  | 65,34  | 65,46  | 65,73  |

1 ) Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Gross Domestic Product by Production, Income and Expenditure Approach, TB 01, 2020.

2 ) Source: Institute for Statistics of the FBiH, Gross Domestic Product, Statistical Bulletin 302, 2018.

Table 1.3. GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, current prices; FBiH<sup>1)</sup>  
(annual real growth rates, % (changes in comparison with previous year))

|                                        | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|----------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Gross domestic product, thous . KM     |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Gross domestic product, thous . EUR    |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Gross domestic product, thous . USD    |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Population, mid-year estimate          |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Gross domestic product per capita, KM  |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Gross domestic product per capita, EUR |      |      |      |      |      |      |

|                                            |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|--------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Gross domestic product per capita, USD     |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Average Annual Exchange Rate <sup>2)</sup> |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| 1 EUR in Convertible Marks                 | 1,956 | 1,956 | 1,956 | 1,956 | 1,956 | 1,956 |
| 1 USD in Convertible Marks                 | 1,474 | 1,474 | 1,763 | 1,768 | 1,736 | 1,658 |

1) Source: Institute for Statistics of the FBiH, Gross Domestic Product, Statistical Bulletin 302, 2018.

2) Source: Central Bank of BiH

Table 1.4. Foreign trade balance of FBiH, (000 KM)

|                                  | 2013       | 2014       | 2015       | 2016       | 2017       | 2018       |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Export                           | 5.533.143  | 5.778.901  | 6.148.081  | 6.259.782  | 7.257.136  | 7.912.225  |
| Chain indices for exports        | 105,42     | 104,44     | 106,4      | 101,8      | 115,9      | 109,0      |
| Import                           | 9.832.197  | 10.353.991 | 10.681.387 | 10.925.903 | 12.441.196 | 13.266.645 |
| Chain indices for imports        | 98,59      | 105,31     | 103,2      | 102,3      | 113,9      | 106,6      |
| Trade balance                    | -4.299.054 | -4.575.090 | -4.535.949 | -4.665.121 | -5.184.060 | -5.354.420 |
| Coverage of imports by exports,% | 56,28      | 55,8       | 57,6       | 57,3       | 58,3       | 59,6       |

Source: Institute for Statistics of the FBiH; Foreign Trade, Statistical Bulletins:2013-2019

Table 1.5. Unemployment rate in FBiH

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 27,6 | 28,4 | 29,1 | 25,6 | 20,0 | 19,2 | 18,4 |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey, 2013-2019.

Table 1.6. Employment rate in FBiH

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 30,3 | 30,2 | 30,2 | 30,5 | 32,1 | 31,9 | 31,9 |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey, 2013-2019.

Table 1.7. Activity rate in FBiH

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 41,8 | 42,1 | 42,6 | 41   | 40,2 | 39,5 | 39,1 |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey, 2013-2019.

## 2. DEMOGRAPHICS

Table 2.1. Population of FBiH by age group and gender, Census 2013

|       | Male      | Female    | Total     |
|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Total | 1.087.993 | 1.131.227 | 2.219.220 |
| 0-14  | 183.143   | 173.805   | 356.948   |
| 15-64 | 785.877   | 790.449   | 1.576.326 |
| 65+   | 118.993   | 285.946   | 285.946   |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in BiH, 2013.

Table 2.2. Live births in FBiH

| 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   | 2019  |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 20.145 | 19.880 | 19.358 | 19.655 | 19.824 | 18.889 | 18019 |

Source Institute for Statistics of the FBiH, Demographic Statistics 2019, Statistical Bulletin 307, 2020.

Table 2.3. Deaths in FBiH

| 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   | 2019 |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------|
| 20.465 | 20.283 | 21.703 | 21.105 | 21.689 | 21.442 | ,    |

Source: Institute for Statistics of the FBiH, Demographic Statistics 2014, Statistical Bulletin 216, 2015; Demographic statistics 2019, Statistical bulletin 307, 2020.

Table 2.4. Population growth in FBiH

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   | 2019   |
|------|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| -320 | -403 | -2.345 | -1.450 | -1.865 | -2.553 | -4.005 |

Source: Institute for Statistics of the FBiH, Demographic Statistics 2019, Statistical Bulletin 307, 2020.

Table 2.5. Educational structure of the population (15+) in FBiH, Census 2013

| Total FBiH | No education | Incomplete primary education | Primary school | High school | Specialization after high school | Higher school and first faculty degree | Faculty /Academy /University |
|------------|--------------|------------------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1.862.272  | 82.724       | 167.956                      | 401.188        | 952.320     | 13.254                           | 56.720                                 | 188.110                      |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH; Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in BiH, 2013

Table 2.6. Educational structure of the population (15+) in FBiH by gender, Census 2013

| Gender | Total | No education | Incomplete primary education | Primary school | High school | Specialization after high school | Higher school and first faculty degree | Faculty/Academy /University |
|--------|-------|--------------|------------------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
|--------|-------|--------------|------------------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|

|        |           |        |         |         |         |        |        |         |
|--------|-----------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|---------|
| Total  | 1.862.272 | 82.724 | 167.956 | 401.188 | 952.320 | 13.254 | 56.720 | 188.110 |
| Male   | 904.850   | 13.635 | 46.470  | 166.078 | 547.281 | 11.005 | 30.520 | 89.861  |
| Female | 957.422   | 69.089 | 121.486 | 235.110 | 405.039 | 2.249  | 26.200 | 98.249  |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in BiH, 2013.

Table 2.7. Illiterate population (10+) in FBiH by gender, Census 2013

| Gender | Total<br>/ Total | Illiterate |      | No response |
|--------|------------------|------------|------|-------------|
|        |                  | Number     | %    |             |
| Total  | 1.988.325        | 52.227     | 2,63 | 20.784      |
| Male   | 969.343          | 6.823      | 0,70 | 7.389       |
| Female | 1.018.982        | 45.404     | 4,46 | 13.395      |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in BiH, 2013.

### 3. DATA ON CHILDREN

Table 3.1. FBiH population by age group, Census 2013

|             | 2013    | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|-------------|---------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Total       | 388.295 |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 0-4 years   | 93.125  |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 5-9 years   | 92.160  |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 10-14 years | 102.169 |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 15-17 years | 100.841 |      |      |      |      |      |      |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in BiH, 2013.

Table 3. 2. Children in preschool education in FBiH

|                                                                          | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| Total admitted                                                           | 11808 | 12737 | 13268 | 14405 | 15093 | 15722 | 16.756 |
| Admitted to public preschool institutions                                | 890   | 9000  | 8718  | 9582  | 9979  | 10350 | 10614  |
| Admitted to private preschool institutions                               | 2908  | 3737  | 4550  | 4823  | 5114  | 5372  | 6142   |
| Total children with special needs admitted                               | 325   | 285   | 304   | 285   | 340   | 296   | 312    |
| Children with special needs - Admitted to public preschool institutions  | 275   | 303   | 211   | 226   | 250   | 238   | 229    |
| Children with special needs - Admitted to private preschool institutions | 50    | 62    | 93    | 59    | 90    | 58    | 83     |
| Total not admitted due to full capacity                                  | 246   | 232   | 991   | 860   | 1446  | 1603  | 2520   |

|                                                                           |     |     |     |     |      |      |      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|
| Not admitted to public preschool institutions due to their full capacity  | 169 | 134 | 810 | 575 | 1038 | 1236 | 1967 |
| Not admitted to private preschool institutions due to their full capacity | 77  | 98  | 181 | 285 | 408  | 367  | 553  |

Source: Institute for Statistics of the FBiH, Preschool Education, 2013-2019, Statistical Bulletin

Table 3.3. Enrolled in primary education in FBiH

|            | 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   | 2019   |
|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total FBiH | 198840 | 194867 | 191210 | 189019 | 185605 | 184053 | 179781 |

Source: Institute for Statistics of the FBiH, Primary Education, 2013-2019, Statistical Bulletins

## 4. YOUTH

Table 4.1. Number of enrolled students in secondary schools in FBiH-Total

|  | 2013   | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  |
|--|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|  | 106056 | 96331 | 87813 | 82675 | 81454 | 76174 | 72892 |

Source: Institute for Statistics of the FBiH, Secondary Education, 2013-2019, Statistical Bulletins

Table 4.2. Number of enrolled students in secondary schools in FBiH - Female

|  | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|  | 52440 | 48091 | 43860 | 41444 | 40744 | 38034 | 36386 |

Source: Institute for Statistics of the FBiH, Secondary Education, 2013-2019, Statistical Bulletins

Table 4.3. Number of enrolled students at universities in FBiH - Total

|  | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|  | 72601 | 71873 | 72112 | 69969 | 66027 | 62285 | 58048 |

Source: Institute for Statistics of the FBiH, Higher Education, 2013-2019, Statistical Bulletins

Table 4.4. Number of enrolled students at universities in FBiH - Female

|  | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|  | 40869 | 40568 | 40795 | 39905 | 37932 | 36741 | 34474 |

Source: : Institute for Statistics of the FBiH, Higher Education, 2013-2019, Statistical Bulletins

Table 4.5. Workforce in FBiH (000) 15 - 24 years

|  | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|  | 81   | 78   | 85   | 73   | 72   | 70   |      |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 4.6. Employees in FBiH (000) 15 - 24 years

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 33   | 27   | 30   | 33   | 39   | 41   |      |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 4.7. Unemployed in FBiH (000) 15 - 24 years

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 48   | 51   | 55   | 40   | 32   | 29   |      |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 4.8. Inactive in FBiH (000) 15 - 24 years

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 211  | 193  | 177  | 173  | 150  | 153  |      |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 4.9. Unemployment rate in FBiH, 15 - 24 years

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 58,9 | 65,3 | 64,9 | 55,1 | 45,2 | 41,0 | 39,0 |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 4.10. Workforce in FBiH (000) 15 - 24 years - Male

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 55   | 48   | 54   | 49   | 47   | 45   |      |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 4.11. Employees in FBiH (000) 15 - 24 years - Male

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 23   | 17   | 20   | 23   | 27   | 27   |      |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 4.12. Unemployed in FBiH (000) 15 - 24 years - Male

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 32   | 30   | 34   | 26   | 20   | (18) |      |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 4.13. Inactive in FBiH (000) 15 - 24 years - Male

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 99   | 92   | 86   | 81   | 76   | 72   |      |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 4.14. Unemployment rate in FBiH, 15 - 24 years Male

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 58,8 | 63,6 | 63,1 | 54,0 | 43,3 | 38,9 | 36,7 |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 4.15. Workforce in FBiH (000) 15 - 24 years - Female

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 26   | 30   | 31   | 24   | 24   | 25   |      |

Source Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 4.16. Employees in FBiH (000) 15 - 24 years - Female

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| (11) | (10) | (10) | (10) | (12) | (14) |      |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 4.17. Unemployed in FBiH (000) 15 - 24 years - Female

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| (15) | 21   | 21   | (14) | (12) | (11) |      |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 4.18. Inactive in FBiH (000) 15 - 24 years - Female

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 112  | 101  | 91   | 93   | 75   | 81   |      |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 4.19. Unemployment rate in FBiH, 15 - 24 years - Female

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 59,1 | 68,1 | 68,1 | 57,3 | 48,9 | 44,7 | 42,7 |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 4.20. Educational structure of youth in FBiH, 2013 Census

| Age   | Gender | Total  | No education | Incomplete primary education | Primary school | High school | Specialization after high school | Higher school and first faculty degree | Faculty /Academy /University |
|-------|--------|--------|--------------|------------------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 15-19 | Total  | 161881 | 2825         | 1464                         | 109188         | 47955       | -                                | 449                                    | -                            |
| 15-19 | Male   | 83298  | 1557         | 807                          | 55382          | 25367       | -                                | 185                                    | -                            |
| 15-19 | Female | 78583  | 1268         | 657                          | 53806          | 22588       | -                                | 264                                    | -                            |
| 20-24 | Total  | 150902 | 884          | 1186                         | 8334           | 119611      | 569                              | 1928                                   | 18390                        |
| 20-24 | Male   | 77103  | 444          | 616                          | 3843           | 64368       | 278                              | 833                                    | 6721                         |
| 20-24 | Female | 73799  | 440          | 570                          | 4491           | 55243       | 291                              | 1095                                   | 11669                        |
| 25-29 | Total  | 164203 | 1076         | 1888                         | 11506          | 107629      | 551                              | 3343                                   | 38210                        |
| 25-29 | Male   | 84119  | 552          | 879                          | 4945           | 60984       | 349                              | 1372                                   | 15038                        |
| 25-29 | Female | 80084  | 524          | 1009                         | 6561           | 46645       | 202                              | 1971                                   | 23172                        |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Census, Households and Apartments in BiH, 2013

## 5. POVERTY

Picture: Poverty in BiH according to different poverty lines 2004-2011<sup>157</sup>

### 3. Poverty in BiH

Table: Poverty Lines and Poverty Incidence\*

|                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 2004 HBS                        |      |      | 2007 HBS                        |      |      | 2011 HBS                        |      |      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------|------|---------------------------------|------|------|---------------------------------|------|------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                             | BiH                             | FBiH | RS   | BiH                             | FBiH | RS   | BiH                             | FBiH | RS   |
| <b>Official Relative Poverty Line:</b>                                                                                                                                                                      |                                 |      |      |                                 |      |      |                                 |      |      |
| (regionally unadjusted)                                                                                                                                                                                     | KM 311 PAE monthly, prices 2004 |      |      | KM 386 PAE monthly, prices 2007 |      |      | KM 416 PAE monthly, prices 2011 |      |      |
| Poverty rate:                                                                                                                                                                                               | 18,3                            | 18,8 | 17,8 | 18,2                            | 17,0 | 20,1 | 17,9                            | 17,1 | 19,5 |
| Source: Household Budget Survey 2007 - Final results, BHAS, FZS, RZRS; First release Household Budget Survey 2011 -Final results, BHAS, FZS, RZRS;                                                          |                                 |      |      |                                 |      |      |                                 |      |      |
| <b>Relative poverty line for FBiH: 443,60 KM PAE 2011 prices (regionally unadjusted)</b>                                                                                                                    |                                 |      |      |                                 |      |      |                                 |      |      |
| Poverty rate:                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                 |      |      |                                 |      |      |                                 | 18,9 |      |
| Source: Authors' calculation                                                                                                                                                                                |                                 |      |      |                                 |      |      |                                 |      |      |
| <b>Official Relative Poverty Line for RS:</b>                                                                                                                                                               |                                 |      |      |                                 |      |      |                                 |      |      |
| (regionally unadjusted)                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                 |      |      | KM 350 PAE monthly, prices 2007 |      |      | KM 381 PAE monthly, prices 2011 |      |      |
| Poverty rate:                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                 |      |      |                                 |      | 15,6 |                                 |      | 14,4 |
| Source: Household Budget Survey in RS u 2007 - Final results, RZRS; First release Household Budget Survey in RS 2011 -Final results, RZRS;                                                                  |                                 |      |      |                                 |      |      |                                 |      |      |
| <b>Absolute poverty line for BiH: 205 KM PC monthly 2007 prices (regionally unadjusted)</b>                                                                                                                 |                                 |      |      |                                 |      |      |                                 |      |      |
| Poverty rate:                                                                                                                                                                                               | 17,7                            | 18,6 | 16,5 | 14,0                            | 13,3 | 15,0 | 15,0                            | 15,1 | 14,9 |
| Source: Protecting the poor during the Global Crisis, 2009 Bosnia and Herzegovina Poverty Update; WB,DEP BiH; Authors' calculation for 2011 on consumption expenditure aggregate EHBS 2011, BHAS, FZS, RZS. |                                 |      |      |                                 |      |      |                                 |      |      |
| <b>Absolute poverty line for BiH: 238 KM PC monthly 2007 (regionally adjusted, expenditures on health excluded)</b>                                                                                         |                                 |      |      |                                 |      |      |                                 |      |      |
| Poverty rate:                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                 | 18,6 |      | 17,4                            |      | 20,2 | 23,4                            | 22,7 | 25,3 |
| Source: Household budget survey 2007 -Poverty and living conditions, BHAS, FZS, RZRS; Authors' calculation for 2011 using EHBS 2011 consumption expenditure aggregate in 2007 prices regionally unadjusted. |                                 |      |      |                                 |      |      |                                 |      |      |
| <b>Absolute poverty line for FBiH: 238 KM PC monthly 2007 prices (regionally adjusted, expenditures on health excluded)</b>                                                                                 |                                 |      |      |                                 |      |      |                                 |      |      |
| Poverty rate:                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                 |      |      | 17,4                            |      |      |                                 | 22,7 |      |
| Source: Household budget survey 2007 -Poverty and living conditions, BHAS, FZS, RZRS; Authors' calculation for 2011 using EHBS 2011 consumption expenditure aggregate in 2007 prices regionally unadjusted. |                                 |      |      |                                 |      |      |                                 |      |      |
| <b>Official absolute poverty line for RS 2007: 201 KM PC monthly 2007 prices (regionally adjusted, expenditures on health excluded)</b>                                                                     |                                 |      |      |                                 |      |      |                                 |      |      |
| Poverty rate:                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                 |      |      |                                 |      | 16,8 |                                 |      | 15,8 |
| Source:Household Budget Survey in RS 2007 -Final results, RZRS; Authors' calculation for 2011 using EHBS 2011 consumption expenditure aggregate for RS in 2007 prices regionally unadjusted.                |                                 |      |      |                                 |      |      |                                 |      |      |

\* In 2007 RSIS published a special publication "Household Budget Survey in the RS in 2007-Final Results," in which absolute and relative line for RS was published. These poverty lines differ from the absolute and relative poverty line for BiH. Also in 2011 RSIS is the bulletin, "Household Budget Survey in RS 2011-Final results, RSIS" released relative poverty line for RS for 2011. Bearing in mind that RSIS published poverty lines for RS authors have calculated relative poverty line for the Federation for 2011 in order to be able to compare two entity profiles of relative poverty. Since the FSI does not publish a separate absolute poverty line for the FBiH the BiH absolute poverty line for 2011 was used for the profile of absolute poverty in FBiH for 2011. The authors have also updated the absolute poverty line published in "Protecting the poor in a time of global crisis, an updated report for BiH 2009" SB, DEP BiH respecting the methodological approach used in this report.

<sup>157</sup> SOURCE: IBHI Poverty in BiH 2011 – Trends and Achievements  
[http://ibhi.ba/Documents/Publikacije/2013/IBHI\\_Siromastvo\\_u\\_BiH\\_2011\\_Trendovi\\_i\\_dostignuca.pdf](http://ibhi.ba/Documents/Publikacije/2013/IBHI_Siromastvo_u_BiH_2011_Trendovi_i_dostignuca.pdf)

## 5.1 Relative poverty in FBiH

Table 5.1.1 Amount of relative poverty line in FBiH (KM)

|      | 2013 | 2014 | 2015   | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|--------|------|------|------|------|
| FBiH |      |      | 389,26 |      |      |      |      |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, BiH Household Budget Survey, 2015

60.0% of median monthly equilized consumption expenditure in Bosnia and Herzegovina amounted to 389.26 KM in 2015.

This value represents the relative poverty line (or standard poverty line) for a single-member adult household.

Table 5.1.2 Households in FBiH by type of household and relative poverty status , 2015

| Household type                                   | Percentage of poor households |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Single household <65 years                       | 10,4                          |
| Single household >= 65 years                     | 16,9                          |
| Married couple without children <65 years        | 10,3                          |
| Married couple without children >= 65 years      | 18,0                          |
| Married couple with 1 child                      | 14,8                          |
| Married couple with 2 children                   | 14,8                          |
| Married couple with 3 or more children           | 17,3                          |
| Single parents                                   | 18,6                          |
| Married couple with children and other relatives | 25,3                          |
| Total FBiH                                       | 16,0                          |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Household Budget Survey in BiH, 2015.

## 5.2 Absolute poverty in FBiH

The profile of absolute poverty in FBiH was made on the basis of data from the Extended Household Budget Survey conducted in BiH in 2015<sup>158</sup>

The absolute poverty line at the level of BiH for 2015 is 270 KM per household member. and it was calculated in such a way that the absolute poverty line from 2007, which amounts to 238 KM, was updated for inflation in the period 2007-2015, using data on the increase in the consumer price index in BiH.

In FBiH in 2015 there were 447 thousand absolutely poor people or 23% of the population (almost every fourth inhabitant) was absolutely poor.

### *Age structure of absolutely poor people*

Table 5.2.1 Percentage share of age groups in BiH and FBiH in the total population of BiH and FBiH, EHBS 2015

|      | 0-14 | 15-24 | 25-64 | 65+ | Total |
|------|------|-------|-------|-----|-------|
| FBiH | 15%  | 14%   | 55%   | 16% | 100%  |
| BiH  | 14%  | 14%   | 55%   | 18% | 100%  |

Table 5.2.2 Percent of absolutely poor people in BiH and FBiH by age group, EHBS 2015

|      | 0-14 | 15-24 | 25-64 | 65+ | Total |
|------|------|-------|-------|-----|-------|
| FBiH | 34%  | 24%   | 21%   | 18% | 23%   |
| BiH  | 34%  | 24%   | 22%   | 17% | 23%   |

Table 5.2.3 Percentage share of absolutely poor people in BiH and FBiH by age group in the total population of absolutely poor people in BiH and FBiH, EHBS 2015

|      | 0-14 | 15-24 | 25-64 | 65+ | Total  |
|------|------|-------|-------|-----|--------|
| FBiH | 22%  | 15%   | 51%   | 12% | 100%*  |
| BiH  | 20%  | 14%   | 52%   | 13% | 100%** |

\* 100% corresponds to all absolutely poor persons in the FBiH that are estimated at 447,000

\*\* 100% corresponds to all absolutely poor people in BiH that are estimated at 687,000

### *One-member elderly households*

Table 5.2.4 Percentage share of the population in one-member elderly households in BiH and FBiH in the total population of BiH and FBiH, EHBS 2015

|      | One-member elderly households | Total |
|------|-------------------------------|-------|
| FBiH | 4%                            | 100%  |
| BiH  | 5%                            | 100%  |

<sup>158</sup> Author's calculation

Table 5.2.5 Percentage of absolutely poor persons in BiH and FBiH living in one-member elderly households, EHBS 2015

|      | One-member elderly households | Total |
|------|-------------------------------|-------|
| FBiH | 6%                            | 23%   |
| BiH  | 8%                            | 23%   |

Table 5.2.6 Percentage share of absolutely poor persons in BiH and FBiH living in one-member elderly households in the total population of absolutely poor persons in BiH and FBiH, EHBS 2015

|      | One-member elderly households | Total   |
|------|-------------------------------|---------|
| FBiH | 1%                            | 100% *  |
| BiH  | 2%                            | 100% ** |

\* 100% corresponds to all absolutely poor people in FBiH that are estimated at 447 thousand

\*\* 100% corresponds to all absolutely poor people in BiH that are estimated at 687 thousand

### *Households with only one parent*

Table 5.2.7 Percentage share of the population in households with only one parent in BiH and FBiH in the total population of BiH and FBiH, EHBS 2015

|      | Households with only one parent | Total |
|------|---------------------------------|-------|
| FBiH | < 1%                            | 100%  |
| BiH  | < 1%                            | 100%  |

Table 5.2.8 Percentage of absolutely poor persons in BiH and FBiH in households where only one parent lives, EHBS 2015

|      | Households with only one parent | Total |
|------|---------------------------------|-------|
| FBiH | 31%                             | 23%   |
| BiH  | 26%                             | 23%   |

Table 5.2.9 Percentage share of absolutely poor persons in BiH and FBiH in households where only one parent lives in the total population of absolutely poor persons in BiH and FBiH, EHBS 2015

|      | Households with only one parent | Total   |
|------|---------------------------------|---------|
| FBiH | 1%                              | 100% *  |
| BiH  | < 1%                            | 100% ** |

\* 100% corresponds to all absolutely poor people in FBiH who are estimated at 447 thousand

\*\* 100% corresponds to all absolutely poor people in BiH who are estimated at 687 thousand

### *Households with 5 or more household members*

Table 5.2.10 Percentage share of the population in households with 5 or more household members in BiH and FBiH in the total population of BiH and FBiH, EHBS 2015

|      | Households with 5 or more household members | Total |
|------|---------------------------------------------|-------|
| FBiH | 28%                                         | 100%  |
| BiH  | 29%                                         | 100%  |

Table 5.2.11 Percentage of absolutely poor persons in BiH and FBiH in households with 5 or more household members, EHBS 2015

|      | Households with 5 or more household members | Total |
|------|---------------------------------------------|-------|
| FBiH | 38%                                         | 23%   |
| BiH  | 39%                                         | 23%   |

Table 5.2.12 Percentage share of absolutely poor persons in BiH and FBiH in households with 5 or more household members in the total population of absolutely poor persons in BiH and FBiH, EHBS 2015

|      | Households with 5 or more household members | Total   |
|------|---------------------------------------------|---------|
| FBiH | 46%                                         | 100% *  |
| BiH  | 48%                                         | 100% ** |

\* 100% corresponds to all absolutely poor people in FBiH that are estimated at 447 thousand

\*\* 100% corresponds to all absolutely poor people in BiH that are estimated at 687 thousand

### *Young unemployed people*

Table 5.2.13 Percentage share of young (15-24 years of age) unemployed persons in BiH and FBiH in the total population of BiH and FBiH, EHBS 2015

|      | Young unemployed people | Total |
|------|-------------------------|-------|
| FBiH | 4%                      | 100%  |
| BiH  | 3%                      | 100%  |

Table 5.2.14 Percentage of absolutely poor young (15-24 years of age) unemployed persons in BiH and FBiH, EHBS 2015

|      | Young unemployed people | Total |
|------|-------------------------|-------|
| FBiH | 34%                     | 23%   |
| BiH  | 33%                     | 23%   |

Table 5.2.15 Percentage share of absolutely poor young (15-24 years of age) unemployed persons in BiH and FBiH in the total population of absolutely poor persons in BiH and FBiH, EHBS 2015

|      | Young unemployed people | Total   |
|------|-------------------------|---------|
| FBiH | 5%                      | 100% *  |
| BiH  | 5%                      | 100% ** |

\* 100% corresponds to all absolutely poor people in FBiH that are estimated at 447 thousand

\*\* 100% corresponds to all absolutely poor people in BiH that are estimated at 687 thousand

*Educational structure of absolutely poor people*

Table 5.2.16 Percentage share of the population (15 and older) in BiH and FBiH by completed education in the total population of BiH and FBiH, EHBS 2015

|      | No school | Incomplete primary school (eight years of schooling) | Incomplete primary school (nine years of schooling) | Primary School | High school | Specialization after high school | High school | Faculty, academy | Master, master | Doctorate | Total - persons aged 15 and over |
|------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------------------------|-------------|------------------|----------------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| FBiH | 5%        | 4%                                                   | 3%                                                  | 19%            | 44%         | 0%                               | 2%          | 6%               | < 1%           | < 1       | 85%                              |
| BiH  | 5%        | 5%                                                   | 3%                                                  | 19%            | 44%         | 0%                               | 2%          | 6%               | < 1%           | < 1       | 86%                              |

Table 5.2.17 Percentage of absolutely poor persons in BiH and FBiH aged 15 and over by highest level of education, EHBS 2015

|      | No school | Incomplete primary school (eight years of schooling) | Incomplete primary school (nine years of schooling) | Primary School | High school | Specialization after high school | High school | Faculty, academy | Master, master | Doctorate | Total |
|------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------------------------|-------------|------------------|----------------|-----------|-------|
| FBiH | 32 %      | 23 %                                                 | 25 %                                                | 29 %           | 19 %        | (11 % )                          | 7 %         | 7 %              | 2 %            | (*)       | 23    |
| BiH  | 32 %      | 22 %                                                 | 25 %                                                | 28 %           | 20 %        | 11 %                             | 9 %         | 7 %              | 2 %            | (*)       | 23    |

() - Data based on 25-49 unweighted cases

(\*) - Data based on less than 25 unweighted cases

Table 5.2.18 Percentage share of absolutely poor persons in BiH and FBiH aged 15 and over by highest level of education, EHBS 2015

|      | No school | Incomplete primary school (eight years of schooling) | Incomplete primary school (nine years of schooling) | Primary School | High school | Specialization after high school | High school | Faculty, academy | Master, master | Doctorate | Total |
|------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------------------------|-------------|------------------|----------------|-----------|-------|
| FBiH | 7 %       | 4 %                                                  | 3 %                                                 | 25 %           | 37 %        | 0 %                              | 1 %         | 2 %              | 0 %            | 0%        | 100 % |

|     |     |     |     |      |      |     |     |     |     |     |             |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|
|     |     |     |     |      |      |     |     |     |     |     | *           |
| BiH | 7 % | 5 % | 3 % | 23 % | 38 % | 0 % | 1 % | 2 % | 0 % | 0 % | 100 %<br>** |

\* 100% corresponds to all absolutely poor people in FBiH that are estimated at 447 thousand

\*\* 100% corresponds to all absolutely poor people in BiH that are estimated at 687 thousand

## Absolutely poor people by activity status

Table 5.2.19 Percentage share of the population (15 and older) in BiH and FBiH by employment status in the total population of BiH and FBiH, EHBS 2015

|      | Employed full working time | Employed less than full time | Unemployed, had a job | Unemployed and looking for the first job | House wife | High school student | Unable to work | Pensioner ( old-age and early retirement ) | Other | Total |
|------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------|------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| FBiH | 25%                        | 4%                           | 5%                    | 7%                                       | 18%        | 9%                  | 2%             | 15%                                        | 1%    | 85%   |
| BiH  | 26%                        | 3%                           | 5%                    | 7%                                       | 17%        | 9%                  | 3%             | 16%                                        | 1%    | 86%   |

Table 5.2.20 Percentage of absolutely poor persons in BiH and FBiH aged 15 and over by employment status, EHBS 2015

|      | Employed full working time | Employed less than full time | Unemployed, had a job | Unemployed and looking for the first job | House wife | High school student | Unable to work | Pensioner ( old-age and early retirement ) | Other | Total |
|------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------|------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| FBiH | 16%                        | 31%                          | 32%                   | 33%                                      | 24%        | 18%                 | 29%            | 16%                                        | 33%   | 23%   |
| BiH  | 17%                        | 31%                          | 29%                   | 32%                                      | 24%        | 19%                 | 30%            | 15%                                        | 29%   | 23%   |

Table 5.2.21 Percentage share of absolutely poor persons in BiH and FBiH aged 15 and over by employment status, EHBS 2015

|      | Employed full working time | Employed less than full time | Unemployed, had a job | Unemployed and looking for the first job | House wife | High school student | Unable to work | Pensioner ( old-age and early retirement ) | Other | Total |
|------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------|------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| FBiH | 17%                        | 5%                           | 7%                    | 10%                                      | 18%        | 7%                  | 3%             | 11%                                        | 1%    | 100%  |
| BiH  | 19%                        | 4%                           | 7%                    | 10%                                      | 17%        | 7%                  | 3%             | 11%                                        | 1%    | 100%  |

\* 100% corresponds to all absolutely poor people in FBiH that are estimated at 447 thousand

\*\* 100% corresponds to all absolutely poor people in BiH that are estimated at 687 thousand

## Absolute poverty in FBiH in the period 2011-2015

Table 5.2.22 Indicators of absolute poverty in FBiH in the period 2011-2015

|                           | 2011    | 2015    |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|
| Total persons             | 2043587 | 1943513 |
| Poor people               | 464418  | 446927  |
| Percentage of poor people | 22.7 %  | 23.0 %  |
| Poverty gap               | 0.06    | 0.07    |
| Squared poverty gap       | 0.03    | 0.03    |
| Poverty deficit           | 0.28    | 0.28    |

Table 5.2.23 Absolute poverty rates by sex of household head in FBiH in the period 2011-2015

|        | 2011 | 2015 |
|--------|------|------|
| Total  | 23 % | 23 % |
| Male   | 24 % | 24 % |
| Female | 18 % | 20 % |

Table 5.2.24 Absolute poverty rates by age group of household members in FBiH in the period 2011-2015

|              | 2011 | 2015 |
|--------------|------|------|
| 0-5          | 32 % | 38 % |
| 6-17         | 29 % | 31 % |
| 18-24        | 22 % | 22 % |
| 25-44        | 24 % | 25 % |
| 45-64        | 18 % | 18 % |
| 65 and above | 20 % | 18 % |
| Total        | 23 % | 23 % |

Table 5.2.25 Absolute poverty rates by number of children in the household in FBiH in the period 2011-2015

|                        | 2011 | 2015 |
|------------------------|------|------|
| No children            | 13 % | 14 % |
| One child              | 21 % | 25 % |
| Two children           | 25 % | 35 % |
| Three or more children | 33 % | 43 % |
| Total                  | 23 % | 23 % |

Table 5.2.26 Absolute poverty rates by number of household members in FBiH in the period 2011-2015

|               | 2011 | 2015 |
|---------------|------|------|
| One           | 8 %  | 5 %  |
| Two           | 12 % | 12 % |
| Three         | 16 % | 18 % |
| Four          | 23 % | 23 % |
| Five and more | 35 % | 38 % |
| Total         | 23 % | 23 % |

Table 5.2.27 Absolute poverty rates by current activity status of household heads in FBiH in the period 2011-2015

|                  | 2011 | 2015 |
|------------------|------|------|
| Employed         | 20 % | 21 % |
| Unemployed       | 37 % | 41 % |
| Retired          | 22 % | 21 % |
| Unable to work   | 48 % | 37 % |
| Housewife        | 23 % | 20 % |
| Other (inactive) | 40 % | 27 % |
| Total            | 23 % | 23 % |

Table 5.2.28 Absolute poverty rates by education of household heads in FBiH in the period 2011-2015

|                     | 2011 | 2015 |
|---------------------|------|------|
| No education        | 52 % | 32 % |
| Primary education   | 35 % | 37 % |
| Secondary education | 19 % | 20 % |
| Higher education    | 5 %  | 7 %  |
| Total               | 23 % | 23 % |

## 6. DATA ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Table 6.1. FBiH population by disability status and gender

| Gender | Total     | People with disabilities | People without disabilities | Unknown Status |
|--------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Total  | 2.219.220 | 181.927                  | 2.006.095                   | 31.198         |
| Male   | 1.087.993 | 81.695                   | 990.795                     | 15.503         |
| Female | 1.131.227 | 100.232                  | 1.015.300                   | 15.695         |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in BiH, 2013.

Table 6.2. People with disabilities in FBiH by type of difficulty, age and gender

| Gender | Age       | Total   | Difficulty with |           |                          |                         |                                          |               | Multiple difficulties |
|--------|-----------|---------|-----------------|-----------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
|        |           |         | Vision          | Listening | Walk or climb the stairs | Memory or concentration | Keeping and maintaining personal hygiene | Communication |                       |
| Total  | Total     | 181.927 | 32.046          | 12.706    | 60.618                   | 5.724                   | 956                                      | 1.721         | 68.156                |
| Total  | Under 15  | 3.186   | 762             | 167       | 490                      | 136                     | 115                                      | 215           | 1.301                 |
| Total  | 15-19     | 1.983   | 607             | 118       | 335                      | 97                      | 27                                       | 67            | 732                   |
| Total  | 20-29     | 4.456   | 1.288           | 241       | 963                      | 265                     | 55                                       | 137           | 1.507                 |
| Total  | 30-49     | 27.752  | 5.410           | 1.589     | 11.106                   | 1.653                   | 210                                      | 448           | 7.336                 |
| Total  | 50-59     | 37.656  | 8.275           | 2.257     | 14.012                   | 1.365                   | 144                                      | 330           | 11.273                |
| Total  | 60-64     | 21.001  | 4.271           | 1.321     | 7.683                    | 531                     | 68                                       | 171           | 6.956                 |
| Total  | 65 and up | 85.893  | 11.433          | 7.013     | 26.029                   | 1.677                   | 337                                      | 353           | 39.051                |
| Male   | Total     | 81.695  | 14.378          | 7.206     | 26.862                   | 3.077                   | 550                                      | 1.149         | 28.473                |
| Male   | Under 15  | 1.824   | 407             | 94        | 271                      | 84                      | 72                                       | 142           | 754                   |
| Male   | 15-19     | 1.121   | 286             | 67        | 192                      | 75                      | 16                                       | 45            | 440                   |
| Male   | 20-29     | 2.679   | 683             | 142       | 628                      | 187                     | 36                                       | 89            | 914                   |
| Male   | 30-49     | 17.462  | 2.937           | 1.073     | 7.463                    | 1.051                   | 146                                      | 290           | 4.502                 |
| Male   | 50-59     | 19.472  | 3.815           | 1.419     | 7.302                    | 781                     | 96                                       | 224           | 5.835                 |
| Male   | 60-64     | 9.362   | 1.829           | 787       | 3.247                    | 273                     | 36                                       | 134           | 3.056                 |
| Male   | 65 and up | 29.775  | 4.421           | 3.624     | 7.759                    | 626                     | 148                                      | 225           | 12.972                |
| Female | Total     | 100.232 | 17.668          | 5.500     | 33.756                   | 2.647                   | 406                                      | 572           | 39.683                |
| Female | Under 15  | 1.362   | 355             | 73        | 219                      | 52                      | 43                                       | 73            | 547                   |
| Female | 15-19     | 862     | 321             | 51        | 143                      | 22                      | 11                                       | 22            | 292                   |
| Female | 20-29     | 1.777   | 605             | 99        | 335                      | 78                      | 19                                       | 48            | 593                   |
| Female | 30-49     | 10.290  | 2.473           | 516       | 3.643                    | 602                     | 64                                       | 158           | 2.834                 |
| Female | 50-59     | 18.184  | 4.460           | 838       | 6.710                    | 584                     | 48                                       | 106           | 5.438                 |
| Female | 60-64     | 11.639  | 2.442           | 534       | 4.436                    | 258                     | 32                                       | 37            | 3.900                 |
| Female | 65 and up | 56.118  | 7.012           | 3.389     | 18.270                   | 1.051                   | 189                                      | 128           | 26.079                |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in BiH, 2013.

Table 6.3. Number of pensioners in FBiH - December - disability pension

| 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 80780 | 78675 | 76739 | 75124 | 72727 | 70365 | 68300 |

Source: Federal Pension Insurance Bureau Mostar

Table 6.4. The amount of the average pension in FBiH (KM) - December - disability pension

| 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   | 2019   |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 309,70 | 325,87 | 325,34 | 324,62 | 324,31 | 346,34 | 363,90 |

Source: Federal Pension Insurance Bureau Mostar

Table 6.5. Amount of relative poverty line in FBiH (KM)

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015   | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|--------|------|------|------|------|
|      |      | 389,26 |      |      |      |      |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Household Budget Survey in BiH, 2015

60.0% of median monthly equalized consumption expenditure in Bosnia and Herzegovina amounted to 389.26 KM in 2015.

This value represents the relative line of poverty (or standard poverty line) for a single-member adult household.

Table 6.6. Coverage of BiH's relative poverty line with disability pension in FBiH

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 80%  | 84%  | 84%  | 83%  | 83%  | 89%  | 93%  |

Source: Federal Pension Insurance Bureau Mostar; Agency for Statistics of BiH, Household Budget Survey in BiH, 2015; Calculation of authors

## 7. THIRD AGE PERSONS

Table 7.1. Number of pensioners in FBiH - December

| 2013    | 2014    | 2015    | 2016    | 2017    | 2018    | 2019    |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 388.676 | 394.900 | 402.044 | 409.335 | 412.539 | 416.828 | 424.009 |

Source: Federal Pension Insurance Bureau Mostar

Table 7.2. The amount of the average pension in FBiH (KM) - December

| 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   | 2019   |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 346,53 | 365,06 | 366,06 | 368,93 | 371,59 | 397,97 | 416,45 |

Source: Federal Pension Insurance Bureau Mostar

Table 7.3. The of the relative poverty line in BiH (KM)

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015   | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|--------|------|------|------|------|
|      |      | 389,26 |      |      |      |      |

Source Agency for Statistics of BiH, Household Budget Survey in BiH, 2015

60.0% of median monthly equalized expenditure for consumption in Bosnia and Herzegovina amounted to 389.26 KM in 2015.

This value represents the relative line of poverty (or standard poverty line) for a single-member adult household.

Table 7.4. Coverage of BiH-level relative poverty line with pensions in FBiH

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 89%  | 94%  | 94%  | 95%  | 95%  | 102% | 107% |

Source: Federal Pension Insurance Bureau Mostar; Agency for Statistics of BiH, Household Budget Survey in BiH, 2015; Calculation of authors

## 8. GENDER

Table 8.1. Structure of certified candidates in FBiH at 2018 General Election

| Authority                           | Female | Male  | Gender structure % |      |
|-------------------------------------|--------|-------|--------------------|------|
|                                     |        |       | Female             | Male |
| Parliament of the Federation of BiH | 551    | 741   | 42,6               | 57,4 |
| Canton Assemblies                   | 1,657  | 2,325 | 41,6               | 58,4 |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, BiH General Election Statistics, 2018

Table 8.2. Gender structure of elected candidates in FBiH at 2018 General Election, by government levels

| Authority                           | Female (Count) | Female (%) | Male (Count) | Male (%) |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|----------|
| Parliament of the Federation of BiH | 26             | 26,5       | 72           | 73,5     |
| Parliaments of Cantons              | 93             | 32,2       | 196          | 67,8     |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, BiH General Election Statistics, 2018

Table 8.3. Judges in FBiH by type of institution and gender

|                                        | 2015          |                 | 2016          |                 | 2017          |                 | 2018          |                 |
|----------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
|                                        | Judges – Male | Judges – Female | Judges – Male | Judges – Female | Judges – Male | Judges – Female | Judges – Male | Judges – Female |
| Supreme Court of the Federation of BiH | 27            | 9               | 33            | 11              | 32            | 12              | 33            | 12              |
| Higher Commercial                      | 3             | 4               | 3             | 4               | 3             | 4               | 3             | 4               |

|                  |    |    |    |    |     |    |     |    |
|------------------|----|----|----|----|-----|----|-----|----|
| Court            |    |    |    |    |     |    |     |    |
| Cantonal courts  | 93 | 37 | 97 | 37 | 101 | 38 | 100 | 34 |
| District Courts  |    |    |    |    |     |    |     |    |
| Municipal courts |    |    |    |    |     |    |     |    |
| Main courts      |    |    |    |    |     |    |     |    |

Source Agency for Statistics of BiH,

Table 8.4. Prosecution in FBiH by type of institution and gender

|                                              | 2015               |                      | 2016               |                      | 2017               |                      | 2018               |                      |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
|                                              | Prosecutors - Male | Prosecutors - Female | Prosecutors - Male | Prosecutors - Female | Prosecutors - Male | Prosecutors - Female | Prosecutors - Male | Prosecutors - Female |
| Prosecutor's Office of the Federation of BiH | 6                  | 6                    | 6                  | 6                    | 6                  | 6                    | 5                  | 5                    |
| Cantonal Prosecutor's Offices                | 92                 | 97                   | 106                | 98                   | 105                | 98                   | 106                | 99                   |
| District Attorney's Offices                  |                    |                      |                    |                      |                    |                      |                    |                      |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH

Table 8. 5. Workforce in FBiH (000) - Male

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 440  | 428  | 433  | 405  | 383  | 363  |      |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 8.6. Unemployed in FBiH (000) - Male

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 119  | 110  | 117  | 93   | 73   | 65   |      |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 8.7. Employees in FBiH (000) - Male

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 321  | 317  | 316  | 313  | 309  | 299  |      |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 8.8. Activity rate in FBiH - Male

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 54,4 | 54,0 | 54,0 | 53,4 | 51,6 | 51,1 | 49,7 |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 8.9. Employment rate in FBiH - Male

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 39,7 | 40,1 | 39,4 | 41,1 | 41,7 | 42,0 | 41,6 |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 8.10. Unemployment rate in FBiH - Male

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 27,1 | 25,7 | 27,1 | 22,9 | 19,2 | 17,8 | 16,3 |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 8.11. Workforce in FBiH (000) - Female

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 252  | 264  | 267  | 240  | 227  | 221  |      |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 8.12. Unemployed in FBiH (000) - Female

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 72   | 86   | 87   | 72   | 49   | 48   |      |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 8.13. Employees in FBiH (000) - Female

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 180  | 178  | 181  | 167  | 178  | 173  |      |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 8.14. Activity rate in FBiH - Female

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 29,8 | 31,0 | 31,7 | 29,5 | 29,3 | 28,7 | 29,3 |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 8.15. Employment rate in FBiH -Female

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 21,3 | 20,9 | 21,4 | 20,6 | 23,1 | 22,5 | 23,0 |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 8.16. Unemployment rate in FBiH – Female

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 28,4 | 32,7 | 32,4 | 30,1 | 21,5 | 21,5 | 21,7 |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 8. 17 . Employees in FBiH by highest completed education and gender

|                                  | Total |       |       |       |       |       | Male  |       |       |       |       |       | Female |       |       |       |       |       |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                  | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2013   | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  |
| Total                            | 501   | 495   | 496   | 480   | 487   | 472   | 321   | 317   | 316   | 313   | 309   | 299   | 180    | 178   | 181   | 167   | 178   | 173   |
| Primary school and less          | 85    | 69    | 69    | 60    | 68    | 49    | 50    | 41    | 40    | 35    | 36    | 31    | 36     | 28    | 29    | 25    | 31    | (18)  |
| High school and specialization   | 317   | 325   | 328   | 324   | 331   | 334   | 219   | 225   | 226   | 228   | 226   | 224   | 98     | 100   | 101   | 97    | 105   | 110   |
| University, master's degree, PhD | 99    | 102   | 100   | 96    | 89    | 89    | 52    | 52    | 49    | 50    | 47    | 44    | 47     | 49    | 50    | 46    | 41    | 45    |
| Structure (%)                    |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |       |       |
| Total                            | 100,0 | 100,0 | 100,0 | 100,0 | 100,0 | 100,0 | 100,0 | 100,0 | 100,0 | 100,0 | 100,0 | 100,0 | 100,0  | 100,0 | 100,0 | 100,0 | 100,0 | 100,0 |
| Primary school and less          | 17,0  | 13,9  | 13,9  | 12,5  | 13,9  | 10,4  | 15,4  | 12,8  | 12,7  | 11,3  | 11,7  | 10,4  | 19,7   | 15,8  | 16,2  | 14,7  | 17,6  | 10,6  |
| High school and specialization   | 63,3  | 65,6  | 66,0  | 67,5  | 67,9  | 70,8  | 68,4  | 70,7  | 71,7  | 72,9  | 73,0  | 75,0  | 54,3   | 56,4  | 56,0  | 57,6  | 59,2  | 63,4  |
| University, master's degree, PhD | 19,7  | 20,5  | 20,1  | 20,0  | 18,2  | 18,8  | 16,2  | 16,5  | 15,6  | 15,9  | 15,3  | 14,6  | 26,0   | 27,8  | 27,9  | 27,6  | 23,3  | 26,0  |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2018.

## 9. SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM

Table 9.1 . Minor beneficiaries of social protection in FBiH

|                                    | 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   | 2019   |
|------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total                              | 74.560 | 78.712 | 76.635 | 78.505 | 77.118 | 78.900 | 77.732 |
| Endangered by the family situation | 35.330 | 36.092 | 35.427 | 35.416 | 32.574 | 32.580 | 31.736 |

|                                                      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| With disturbances in mental and physical development | 8.559  | 8.927  | 8.986  | 9.004  | 8.342  | 7.425  | 8.790  |
| Socio-unacceptable behaviour                         | 4.542  | 4.360  | 4.162  | 4.199  | 4.092  | 4.054  | 4.020  |
| Mentally ill                                         | 342    | 322    | 339    | 348    | 356    | 351    | 346    |
| In a state of different social and protective needs  | 23.864 | 27.002 | 25.410 | 27.070 | 27.846 | 28.248 | 27.690 |
| No specific category                                 | 1.923  | 2.009  | 2.311  | 2.468  | 3.908  | 6.242  | 5.150  |

Source: Institute for Statistics of the FBiH, Social Welfare, 2018, 2019

Table 9.2. Adult beneficiaries of social protection in FBiH

|                                                      | 2013    | 2014    | 2015    | 2016    | 2017    | 2018    | 2019    |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total                                                | 234.326 | 253.634 | 243.465 | 257.488 | 252.254 | 262.929 | 259.271 |
| Cost subsidising beneficiaries                       | 3.622   | 3.098   | 3.242   | 2.949   | 3.010   | 2.913   | 3.151   |
| People who don't have enough income for subsistence  | 103.422 | 109.971 | 106.193 | 114.386 | 110.654 | 105.800 | 106.355 |
| With disturbances in mental and physical development | 27.073  | 27.567  | 26.620  | 28.423  | 26.435  | 28.843  | 26.839  |
| Socio-unacceptable behaviour                         | 5.363   | 5.647   | 5.721   | 6.439   | 6.154   | 6.071   | 5.990   |
| Mentally ill                                         | 3.818   | 4.053   | 3.974   | 3.201   | 3.180   | 3.410   | 3.479   |
| In a state of different social and protective needs  | 73.097  | 83.513  | 77.507  | 79.245  | 78.551  | 90.741  | 90.173  |
| No specific category                                 | 17.931  | 19.785  | 20.208  | 22.845  | 24.270  | 25.151  | 26.763  |

Source: Institute for Statistics of the FBiH, Social Welfare, 2018, 2019

Table 9.3. Beneficiaries of social protection in FBiH - Total

|                                                                                          | 2013    | 2014    | 2015    | 2016    | 2017    | 2018    | 2019    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total                                                                                    | 309.236 | 315.629 | 309.027 | 311.136 | 301.289 | 311.391 | 340.482 |
| Cost subsidising beneficiaries                                                           | 3.622   | 3.098   | 3.242   | 2.949   | 3.010   | 2.913   | 3.151   |
| Endangered by the family situation /People who do not have enough income for subsistence | 138.752 | 146.063 | 141.620 | 149.802 | 143.228 | 138.380 | 138.091 |
| With disturbances in mental and physical development                                     | 35.632  | 36.494  | 35.606  | 37.427  | 34.777  | 36.268  | 35.629  |
| Socio-unacceptable behaviour                                                             | 9.905   | 10.007  | 9.883   | 10.638  | 10.246  | 10.125  | 10.010  |
| Mentally ill                                                                             | 4.160   | 4.375   | 4.313   | 3.549   | 3.536   | 3.761   | 3.825   |
| In a state of different social and protective needs                                      | 96.961  | 110.515 | 102.917 | 106.315 | 106.397 | 118.989 | 117.863 |
| No specific category                                                                     | 19.854  | 21.794  | 22.519  | 25.313  | 28.178  | 31.393  | 31913   |

Source: Institute for Statistics of the FBiH, Social Welfare, 2018, 2019

## 10. EDUCATION SYSTEM

Table 10.1. Enrolled in primary education in FBiH

| 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   | 2019   |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 198840 | 194867 | 191210 | 189019 | 185605 | 184053 | 179781 |

Source: Institute for Statistics of the FBiH, Primary Education, 2013-2019, Statistical Bulletin

Table 10.2. Number of enrolled students in high schools in FBiH - Total

| 2013   | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019 |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| 106056 | 96331 | 87813 | 82675 | 81454 | 76174 |      |

Source: Institute for Statistics of the FBiH, Secondary Education, 2013-2019, Statistical Bulletin

Table 10.3. Number of enrolled students in high schools in FBiH - Female

| 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| 52440 | 48091 | 43860 | 41444 | 40744 | 38034 |      |

Source: Institute for Statistics of the FBiH, Primary Education, 2013-2019, Statistical Bulletin

Table 10.4. Number of enrolled students at universities in FBiH - Total

| 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| 72601 | 71873 | 72112 | 69969 | 66027 | 62285 |      |

Source: Institute for Statistics of the FBiH, Higher Education, 2013-2019, Statistical Bulletin

Table 10.5. Number of enrolled students at universities in FBiH - Female

| 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| 40869 | 40568 | 40795 | 39905 | 37932 | 36741 |      |

Source: Institute for Statistics of the FBiH, Higher Education, 2013-2019, Statistical Bulletin

Table 10.6. Children in preschool education in FBiH

|                                                                                     | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| Total admitted                                                                      | 11808 | 12737 | 13268 | 14405 | 15093 | 15722 | 16.756 |
| Admitted to public pre-school institutions                                          | 890   | 9000  | 8718  | 9582  | 9979  | 10350 | 10614  |
| Admitted to private pre-school institutions                                         | 2908  | 3737  | 4550  | 4823  | 5114  | 5372  | 6142   |
| Total children with special needs admitted                                          | 325   | 285   | 304   | 285   | 340   | 296   | 312    |
| Children with special needs - Admitted to public pre-school institutions            | 275   | 303   | 211   | 226   | 250   | 238   | 229    |
| Children with special needs - Admitted to private pre-school institutions           | 50    | 62    | 93    | 59    | 90    | 58    | 83     |
| Total not admitted due to full capacity                                             | 246   | 232   | 991   | 860   | 1446  | 1603  | 2520   |
| They were not admitted to public preschool institutions due to the full capacity    | 169   | 134   | 810   | 575   | 1038  | 1236  | 1967   |
| They were not admitted to private preschool institutions due to their full capacity | 77    | 98    | 181   | 285   | 408   | 367   | 553    |

Source: Institute for Statistics of the FBiH, Preschool Education, 2013-2019, Statistical Bulletin

### 10.7. FBiH – Gross added value for education and all activities and GDP, current prices

|                                                | 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   |
|------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Education                                      | 4,9    | 5,0    | 4,8    | 4,6    | 4,5    | 4,5    |
| All activities - Total                         | 86,0   | 85,6   | 85,8   | 85,9   | 86,0   | 86,0   |
| Gross domestic product (GDP) in current prices | 100,00 | 100,00 | 100,00 | 100,00 | 100,00 | 100,00 |

Source: Institute for Statistics of the FBiH, Gross Domestic Product, 2018

## 11. EMPLOYMENT

Table 11.1. Workforce in FBiH (000)

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 692  | 691  | 700  | 645  | 609  | 584  |      |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 11.2. Unemployed in FBiH (000)

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 191  | 196  | 204  | 165  | 122  | 112  |      |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 11.3. Employees in FBiH (000)

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 501  | 495  | 496  | 480  | 487  | 472  |      |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 11.4. Activity rate in FBiH

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 41,8 | 42,1 | 42,6 | 41   | 40,2 | 39,5 | 39,1 |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 11.5. Employment rate in FBiH

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 30,3 | 30,2 | 30,2 | 30,5 | 32,2 | 31,9 | 31,9 |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 11.6. Unemployment rate in FBiH

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 27,6 | 28,4 | 29,1 | 25,6 | 20,0 | 19,2 | 18,4 |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 11.7. Registered employment in FBiH (000) - year-on-year average

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 435  | 444  | 450  | 458  | 505  | 520  | 531  |

Source: Labour and Employment Agency of BiH, Detailed Statistics, FBiH, May 2020

Table 11.8. Registered unemployment in FBiH (000) - year-on-year average

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 389  | 391  | 390  | 378  | 358  | 336  | 314  |

Source: Labour and Employment Agency of BiH, Detailed Statistics, FBiH, May 2020

## 12. HEALTH SYSTEM

Table 12.1. Health care in FBiH

| Indicator                           | 2013    | 2014    | 2015    | 2016    | 2017    | 2018    | 2019    |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Population (mid-year estimate)      | 2337200 | 2336722 | 2334348 | 2206231 | 2201193 | 2196233 | 2190098 |
| Number of doctors                   | 4519    | 4625    | 4801    | 4764    | 4755    | 4810    | 4922    |
| Number of dentists                  | 593     | 576     | 581     | 587     | 596     | 604     | 592     |
| Number of hospital beds             | 8610    | 8245    | 8414    | 8379    | 8255    | 8252    | 8107    |
| No. of inhabitants per doctor       | 517     | 505     | 486     | 463     | 463     | 457     | 445     |
| No. of inhabitants per dentist      | 3941    | 4057    | 4018    | 3758    | 3693    | 3636    | 3699    |
| No. of inhabitants per hospital bed | 271     | 283     | 277     | 263     | 267     | 266     | 270     |

Source: Socioeconomic Indicators by Municipalities of FBiH, 2009-2013, Federal Institute for Development Programming

Table 12.2. Fertility rates in FBiH

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1.2  | 1.2  | 1.2  | 1.2  | 1.3  | 1.3  |      |

Source: Federal Institute of Public Health, Health Statistics Yearbook, 2018

Table 12.3. Early and late infant death rates in FBiH

| Indicator                  | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Rate of early infant death | 5.2  | 3.4  | 5.1  | 5.1  | 4.9  | 4.9  |      |
| Rate of late infant death  | 0.8  | 1.2  | 1.5  | 1.4  | 2.0  | 1.4  |      |

Source: Federal Institute of Public Health, Health and Statistics Yearbook, 2018

Table 12.4. Spendings for health in FBiH

|                                                    | 2013    | 2014*)   | 2015*)   | 2016*)  | 2017    | 2018     | 2019 |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------|----------|----------|---------|---------|----------|------|
| GDP ( million KM)                                  | 17379   | 17827    | 18688    | 19540   | 20540   | 21984    |      |
| Spendings for Health (mil. KM)                     |         | 1560.548 | 1597.307 | 1640.04 | 1692.11 | 1795.677 |      |
| Spendings for Health (% of GDP)                    |         | 8.8      | 8.5      | 8.4     | 8.2     | 8.2      |      |
| Population estimate                                | 2219131 | 2215997  | 2210994  | 2206231 | 2201193 | 2196233  |      |
| Spendings for health per capita (KM) <sup>1)</sup> |         | 704      | 722      | 743     | 769     | 818      |      |

Source: Institute for Statistics of the FBiH, Gross Domestic Product 2018; Statistics of national health accounts in FBiH, 2014-2018

### 13. SOCIAL INCLUSION

Table 13.1. Access of household to services in FBiH, 2015 (%)

| Service/Access                                 | Difficult or very difficult | Easy or very easy | The service is not used |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Grocery store                                  | 17.3                        | 82.5              | :                       |
| Banking services                               | 36.6                        | 54.8              | 8.6                     |
| Postal services                                | 32.9                        | 62.2              | 4.9                     |
| Public transport                               | 22.3                        | 62.4              | 15.3                    |
| Primary Health Care Institution                | 29.2                        | 70.1              | -0.7                    |
| Institution of preschool and primary education | 8                           | 29.5              | 62.5                    |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, BiH Household Budget Survey, 2015

Table 13.2. Indicators of material deprivation of households in FBiH, 2015 (%)

| Indicator                                                     | % of households |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Households having financial difficulties paying utility bills | 19.7            |

|                                                                                                     |      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Households who cannot afford one week annual holiday away from home                                 | 68.8 |
| Households who cannot afford a meat, chicken or fish meal or vegetarian substitute every second day | 28.6 |
| Households who cannot afford unexpected expenses of 380 KM                                          | 60.0 |
| Households who cannot keeping the home adequately warm                                              | 10.6 |
| Households who do not own a car                                                                     | 45.9 |
| Households who do not own a washing machine                                                         | 5.7  |
| Households who do not own a TV                                                                      | 1.7  |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, BiH Household Budget Survey, 2015

Table 13.3. FBiH households facing problems related to the housing unit and the environment in which they live, 2015 (%)

| Indicator                                        | % of households |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Crime, violence or vandalism in the area         | 5.1             |
| Pollution, grime or other environmental problems | 14.8            |
| Noise from neighbours or from the street         | 7.00            |
| Darkness, not enough day-light                   | 6.1             |
| Inadequate heating of housing units              | 10.6            |
| Rot in window frames or floor                    | 11.4            |
| Damp walls/foundations                           | 14.1            |
| Leaky roof                                       | 7.3             |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, BiH Household Budget Survey, 2015

## 14. CRIME

Table 14. 1. Juvenile perpetrators of criminal offences in FBiH – Total

| Years     | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Reported  | 600  | 551  | 419  | 427  | 413  | 380  | 311  |
| Accused   | 624  | 541  | 297  | 96   | 77   | 75   | 74   |
| Convicted | 258  | 260  | 116  | 84   | 47   | 57   | 63   |

Source: Institute for Statistics of the FBiH, Justice Statistics, 2013-2019.

Table 14.2. Juvenile perpetrators of criminal offences in FBiH - Male

| Years     | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Reported  | 583  | 522  | 398  | 400  | 381  | 352  | 295  |
| Accused   | 601  | 541  | 272  | 86   | 73   | 68   | 71   |
| Convicted |      |      | 116  | 76   | 44   | 51   | 63   |

Source: Institute for Statistics of the FBiH, Justice Statistics, 2013-2019.

Table 14.3. Juvenile perpetrators of criminal offences in FBiH - Female

| Years     | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Reported  | 17   | 29   | 21   | 27   | 32   | 28   | 16   |
| Accused   | 23   |      | 25   | 10   | 4    | 7    | 3    |
| Convicted |      |      | -    | 8    | 3    | 6    | -    |

Source: Institute for Statistics of the FBiH, Justice Statistics, 2013-2019.

Table 14.4. Adult perpetrators of criminal offences in FBiH - Total (perpetrator known)

| Years     | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Reported  | 14157 | 12324 | 12656 | 13412 | 14785 | 13734 | 12114 |
| Accused   | 10635 | 9734  | 9733  | 8715  | 8202  | 8299  | 7980  |
| Convicted | 9612  | 8857  | 9000  | 8071  | 7644  | 7728  | 7520  |

Source: Institute for Statistics of the FBiH, Justice Statistics, 2013-2019.

Table 14.5. Adult perpetrators of criminal offences in FBiH - Male

| Years     | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Reported  | 13295 | 11477 | 11684 | 12389 | 13569 | 12285 | 10788 |
| Accused   | 10094 | 9287  | 9209  | 8171  | 7715  | 7774  | 7377  |
| Convicted | 9145  | 8465  | 8512  | 7568  | 7195  | 7246  | 6959  |

Source: Institute for Statistics of the FBiH, Justice Statistics, 2013-2019.

Table 14.6. Adult perpetrators of criminal offences in FBiH - Female

| Years     | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Reported  | 862  | 847  | 972  | 1023 | 1216 | 1449 | 1326 |
| Accused   | 541  | 447  | 524  | 544  | 487  | 525  | 603  |
| Convicted | 467  | 392  | 488  | 503  | 449  | 482  | 561  |

Source: Institute for Statistics of the FBiH, Justice Statistics, 2013-2019.