



This project is funded by  
the European Union



## **Republika Srpska Social Inclusion STRATEGY for 2021 - 2027**

**Banja Luka, December 2020**

*This publication has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union and UNICEF. The content of the publication is the sole responsibility of the Foundation for Social Inclusion in BiH and the Initiative for Better and Humane Inclusion and does not necessarily represent the position of the European Union and UNICEF.*

## TABLE OF CONTENT

|                                                                                                         |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| INTRODUCTION .....                                                                                      | 4  |
| 1 COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND ITS CONSEQUENCES ON DEVELOPMENT .....                                           | 5  |
| 2 SOCIAL INCLUSION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – BASIS FOR THE NEW APPROACH TO SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ..... | 9  |
| 2.1. Social inclusion vs. social exclusion.....                                                         | 9  |
| 2.2. Towards the Sustainable Development Goals .....                                                    | 11 |
| 3 THE CONTEXT OF SOCIAL INCLUSION IN THE REPUBLIKA SRPSKA – WHERE ARE THE PROBLEMS? .....               | 13 |
| 3.1. Economic development .....                                                                         | 14 |
| 3.2. Demographic changes.....                                                                           | 16 |
| 3.3. Towards the EU integration – reforms as a condition .....                                          | 20 |
| 3.4. Problems/risks of social exclusion of marginalized groups .....                                    | 21 |
| 3.4.1. Children and youth protection.....                                                               | 21 |
| 3.4.2. Poverty and assistance to poor.....                                                              | 29 |
| 3.4.3. Discrimination of persons with disabilities .....                                                | 33 |
| 3.4.4. The elderly - the struggle for survival .....                                                    | 36 |
| 3.4.5. Women and gender inequality .....                                                                | 39 |
| 3.4.5. Exercising the rights of minority groups .....                                                   | 40 |
| 4 SOCIAL INCLUSION GOALS.....                                                                           | 42 |
| 5 SOCIAL INCLUSION MECHANISMS - ACCELERATORS OF CHANGE .....                                            | 47 |
| 6 SOCIAL INCLUSION INDICATORS - STATUS/PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND PROCESS INDICATORS .....              | 56 |
| 7 NEXT STEPS? – FINALIZATION OF THE DOCUMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY .....                   | 58 |
| 8 ANNEX- STATISTICAL INDICATORS.....                                                                    | 59 |

## INTRODUCTION

The social inclusion strategy is the part of a joint effort of the Government of the Republika Srpska and the civil society organizations to improve the quality of life of socially vulnerable and socially marginalized groups through systemic improvements.

The need to draft this Strategy stems from the Constitution of the Republika Srpska, which defines the Republika Srpska as a community based on social justice, guarantee and protection of human rights and freedoms through respect for general and special international standards. The obligation to regulate the subject matter of this strategy is found in Amendment XXXII, Article 68 of the Constitution, stipulating that the Republika Srpska regulates and ensures the operation of the public service system, basic goals and directions of demographic and social development, as well as employment, social security and other forms of social protection.

The development of the Strategy is also the result of the need to harmonize domestic regulations with adopted international documents in the area of human and civil rights, such as: UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Council of Europe Social Cohesion Strategy, European Social Charter, etc.

Socially vulnerable and marginalized groups of the population are individuals, families and social groups deprived of the opportunity to exercise the key social values such as: the right to work, realization of artistic and creative potential, material well-being, human dignity, social security, future prospects, etc. The members of these population groups constitute the largest part of the beneficiaries of the public systems dealing with issues of social security and social protection of citizens in the Republika Srpska.

The quality of life of socially vulnerable and marginalized groups often and to a large extent depends on the efficiency of public systems competent for planning, organization and implementation of protection and support measures. The results of these measures are the indicators of society's success in combating social problems and states of social exclusion of socially vulnerable and marginalized individuals, families and population groups. A society of full social inclusion is an ideal that the Republika Srpska strives to achieve in its economic and social development.

The participation of beneficiary civil society organizations in the development of the Social Inclusion Strategy is a precondition for the efficient social security systems and social protection measures. In that sense, the joint work on the development of this document is a guarantee for the success of the Republika Srpska society in combating social exclusion of marginalized and socially vulnerable groups of the population.

The social inclusion strategy starts from the fact that the citizens are the subjects and not the objects of social processes. Public systems are mechanisms of social action through which the citizens are enabled to exercise their rights as a key element of the social inclusion process. Access to rights and services is a precondition for social inclusion and thus reduction of social exclusion in a society. From the perspective of socially vulnerable and marginalized groups, this document represents a key tool for social affirmation of their rights and the possibility of systemic improvement of their quality of life.

This document connects the needs of members of socially vulnerable groups with systemic solutions for the achievement of the social inclusion process goals. The social inclusion goals

are stemming from the situational analysis of the state, the problems and the social context of social exclusion, and their implementation implies the activation of systemic mechanisms. The "change" is the term that brings all the elements together and makes this approach unique in methodological terms, and it is also the ultimate expected result of the social inclusion process.

In order to maintain the planning process methodologically consistent and to make it operationally feasible, it is very important to involve all relevant and interested stakeholders that will implement the strategy in the determination of social development priority issues, and identification of goals and measures. It is very important that those involved in this strategic planning process understand the role of the accelerators of change introduced here in order to establish the necessary link between systemic improvements and the achievement of strategic goals.

Determining the program, specific activities, operational indicators, required resources, timelines and organizational structure for the implementation of the strategy would be the subject matter of their operational planning that would follow after the adoption of this strategy.

The Delegation of the European Union and UNICEF support the project "Build up for Social Inclusion Advocacy Platform – Will You Stop and Listen" implemented by the Social Inclusion Foundation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SIF in BiH) and the Initiative for Better and Humane Inclusion (IBHI). One of the goals of the project is to initiate and prepare social inclusion strategies in FBiH, RS and BD BiH.

The working drafts of strategies are prepared by an expert team: Dr. Žarko Papić - team leader, Prof. Dr. Ljubo Lepir (Republika Srpska), Fahrudin Memić - statistician, M.Sc. Maida Fetahagić (FBiH) and M. Sc. Nataša Stevanović (Brčko District).

## 1 COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND ITS CONSEQUENCES ON DEVELOPMENT

Mid-March 2020 it became completely clear, at the global level, that the current COVID-19 pandemic will have a great impact on the overall economic and social development of all countries in the world. The sudden outbreak and fast spreading of the health and epidemiological crisis has completely changed the picture of development priorities in the world. Completely unprepared systems of social action (especially health and economic) began to disintegrate, and the previous functioning methods of public services proved to be inefficient.

As a response at the time, very restrictive measures were introduced containing the movement and communication of people and that was a direct attack on the global progress. State of emergency has been introduced in a large number of countries, mass gatherings have been banned, the work of certain economic entities has been restricted or completely banned, mandatory hygienic and epidemiological measures have entered into force, rigorous inspections have been established, the movement of people, goods and capital has been restricted, the international borders closed, etc. Such restrictive measures, in a very short time, have led to devastating socio-economic consequences and a global crisis that has already proved to be deep, and that getting out of it will be very difficult and long-lasting.

It quickly became clear that nothing in the world would be the same, and that we would have to adapt to the new reality of "living with the COVID-19". All development policies (at the global and national level) will have to be revised and adjusted to the new conditions of life organization imposed by the state of the pandemic. Economic policies will have to provide answers to the devastating consequences that the pandemic has on the economic resources and material power of a society, and social policies will have to focus on addressing the issues of social inequalities and poverty that will increase over time.

The production activities were reduced to a minimum, and industrial production suffered economic losses in all countries of the world. The situation is particularly difficult in developing countries and transition societies. The UNDP<sup>1</sup> estimates illustrate that half of all jobs in those countries could be lost, and the loss of revenue could be several hundred billion dollars. According to the same opinion, it is estimated that these losses will have a great impact on societies, affect education, human rights and, in the most severe cases, basic food safety and nutrition. It will be especially difficult in the private entrepreneurial sector, which will lose the potential to ensure economically viable business operations.

The health care is the area of social activity that is most affected by the consequences of this crisis. Providing effective health care and managing the risk of infection is the biggest challenge of the current situation. The health care systems in the world were generally not prepared for the escalation of risks of this level, so it was quite certain that there would be a collapse in the functioning of health care institutions once faced with the great pressure in terms of the number of infected and sick people. Health care services were quickly and "ad hoc" reorganized to accommodate a larger number of infected persons, and this meant providing additional space, material and technical resources, equipment, medicines, and human resources. One of the key and real questions during the pandemic is whether, due to the lack of material resources, it will be possible to provide health care to all those who need it. Such a situation was especially pronounced at the beginning of the pandemic.

The situation will be especially difficult in underdeveloped and transition countries. The already weak state in these countries will find itself in great difficulties due to the reduction of public finances. Due to the reduction of revenues, social insurance funds will not be able to finance the obligations arising from the exercise of the right to pension-disability and health insurance. The state will have to take over the financing of pensions, disability benefits and medical expenses from its budget. Given that a deep and long-lasting economic recession is expected, the revenues in the state budgets of these countries will be reduced, and this will make the regular payment of social benefits to socially vulnerable groups of citizens impossible.

Only a month after the introduction of restrictive measures in BiH and the Republika Srpska<sup>2</sup>, the first negative development trends were recorded, which could not have been foreseen at the beginning of 2020, when the regular planning documents were adopted.

The first analyzes of the impact of the pandemic on economic development<sup>3</sup>, show that BiH, and thus the Republika Srpska, will face very serious problems, which are reflected in the following:

---

<sup>1</sup> See: [https://www.ba.undp.org/content/bosnia\\_and\\_herzegovina/bs/home/presscenter/vijesti/2020/covid-19-UNDP-response.html](https://www.ba.undp.org/content/bosnia_and_herzegovina/bs/home/presscenter/vijesti/2020/covid-19-UNDP-response.html)

<sup>2</sup> The Republika Srpska adopted a decision to suspend classes in all schools and faculties on March 11, 2020, declared an emergency situation on March 16, and the National Assembly imposed a state of emergency on March 28, 2020.

- Forecasts of GDP decline between 2% and 5% suggest that BiH will enter a period of recession, the depth and duration of which will be decided by the duration of the crisis and the quality of measures taken by the authorities towards the real sector.
- Rising unemployment, especially in service industries, will have an upward trajectory.
- More severe consequences will be suffered by small and medium-size enterprises that do not have the capacity to compensate for losses resulting from falling demand and disruptions in the supply chain.
- In addition to the direct and indirect impact on certain industries (sectors of services, transport, retail and industrial production), the negative consequences should be expected in the long run for the overall economy.
- Most companies in BiH had a decline in business activities, a decrease in turnover and a decline in revenue, depending on the level of restrictiveness of the measures taken by the competent authorities.
- The decline in exports and imports, which is a direct consequence of restrictive measures in the field of transport and transportation, will have a significant impact on future economic trends in BiH.
- The disturbances on the global market may represent the new opportunities for the development of companies in BiH, especially export-oriented, since relying on the internal needs of the market will lead to demand for skilled labor, which will increase the competitiveness of domestic companies over the companies from the region.
- Most companies tend to address the problems they face by taking restrictive measures, at least temporarily, such as laying off workers and reducing wages.
- Although initially the negative impact of the pandemic affected the female part of the population more than men, especially working women, the indicators show a reduction in this gap.
- Unskilled workers and unemployed young people will feel more severe consequences of the pandemic, which is why support measures should be targeted at them.
- The crisis caused by the pandemic will have a negative impact on the achievement of the Global Sustainable Development Goals, and in particular Goal no. 3 - A world without poverty and goal no. 8 - Decent work and economic growth.

Other analyzes also confirm these predictions and provide even gloomier forecasts of the negative effects of the pandemic on the global, and thus on the socio-economic development of BiH and the Republika Srpska.<sup>4</sup>

From the very beginning of the pandemic, the governments in BiH have undertaken a number of activities to combat the consequences of the pandemic, both in the domain of health and economy.<sup>5</sup> The Government of the Republika Srpska has adopted a series

---

<sup>3</sup> Among the first analyses of this type is the one conducted by UNDP team, titled Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in BiH. Available on:

[https://www.ba.undp.org/content/bosnia\\_and\\_herzegovina/en/home/library/publications/EconomicImpactAssessment.html](https://www.ba.undp.org/content/bosnia_and_herzegovina/en/home/library/publications/EconomicImpactAssessment.html) Accessed on: June 2, 2020

<sup>4</sup> See the Study of the World Bank "Economic and Social Impact of COVID-19". Available at: <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/134541590708748966/WBRER17-07-Air-Pollution-BOS.pdf>

Also, see the results of the research of the Union of Employers' Associations of the Republika Srpska "Impact of COVID-19 on business in the Republika Srpska". Available at: <http://unijauprs.org/dokumenti/covid-19/covid-19-RS.html> Accessed on September 22, 2020.

<sup>5</sup> By mid-September 2020, over eighty regulations (laws, regulations, decisions, orders) were adopted at the level of the state, entities, Brčko District and cantons in the FBiH, regulating general and specific actions related to preventing the spread of disease and mitigating the economic consequences of COVID19. For more

of measures aimed, above all, at preventing the spread of the coronavirus, raising the efficiency of the health system, providing health care and providing economic assistance to the economy. Special emphasis should be placed on the Government's efforts to intervene in the economic sector in order to mitigate the economic consequences of the crisis. In this sense, several interventions should be singled out aimed at preserving economic activities, jobs and purchasing power of the population. In the first six months of the pandemic, the following documents were adopted at the RS level:

- Decision on urgent payment of tax refunds and contributions for wage increase in 2019;
- Decision on temporary deferral of payment of tax liabilities ("Official Gazette of the RS", No. 28/20);
- Decision on a three-month moratorium on repayment of principal and interest with extension of the repayment period by three months ("Official Gazette of the RS", No. 28/20);
- Decision on temporary measures for microcredit organizations to mitigate the negative economic consequences caused by coronavirus disease (COVID-19) ("Official Gazette of the RS", No. 89/2020);
- Decision on temporary measures for banks to mitigate the negative economic consequences caused by coronavirus disease (COVID-19) ("Official Gazette of the RS", No. 89/2020);
- Decision on exemption from calculation and payment of indirect taxes and refund of already paid indirect taxes on equipment and funds donated by domestic and international entities for the prevention, suppression and elimination of the epidemic caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) ("Official Gazette of the RS", No. 20/2020 and 24/2020);
- Decree on the conditions and manner of using tourist vouchers in catering and hospitality facilities;
- Decision on temporary measures related to legal entities and entrepreneurs in order to prevent the harmful consequences of the COVID 19 pandemic on economic entities ("Official Gazette of the RS", No. 28/2020), etc.

These measures have led to a reduction in the number of dismissed employees and the maintenance of relatively stable social security for citizens. The efforts of the institutions of the Republika Srpska to maintain the regular payment of all obligations to citizens arising from the exercise of social and other rights, such as pensions, disability benefits, social benefits, etc., certainly contributed to this. However, it is clear that the situation will not remain as it is. The consequences of a pandemic will have profound effects on the functioning of all areas of life, both at the state level and at the level of each family and each individual. In addition to the problems of preserving health and economic security, caused by the risk of getting ill and loss of employment, each individual and his/her family will have to introduce into their daily lives new behaviors that will significantly change the lifestyles. The changes will be felt in the material position of the family, the mental health of its members, mutual relations, emotional and intimate life of every citizen of Republika Srpska.

## 2 SOCIAL INCLUSION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – BASIS FOR THE NEW APPROACH TO SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### 2.1. Social inclusion vs. social exclusion

The concepts of social exclusion and social inclusion emerged as a result of the search for a European way to address the new forms of poverty and social marginalization, their causes and possible ways of combating them in a modern society. They developed in the political discourse of the European Union in the 80s and 90s of the last century, and at the beginning of this century they became a strategic concept of EU social development policies. These are multidimensional concepts that connect tangible and intangible aspects of human life.

Although the very notion of social exclusion is closely related to the notion of poverty, it does not only mean the absence of income or material resources but also includes the reduction of opportunities and chances of using social resources by each individual in the community. A significant number of theorists believe that exclusion can be thought of as a failure in one or more societal systems:

- Democratic and legal system, which provides civic or civil integration,
- Labor market system, which promotes economic integration,
- Social welfare system, which promotes social integration,
- Family and local community system, which provides interpersonal integration.<sup>6</sup>

Being socially excluded implies the denial of the full access to civil status rights, which are an important prerequisite for securing employment, material allowances, health care, education, social protection, cultural and ethnic identity, etc. In short, socially excluded are those individuals who are unable to participate in normal (regular) activities of the society to which they belong, or are discriminated against, due to factors beyond their control and which may be conditioned by individual conditions, social circumstances, institutional actions and systemic constraints. Discrimination occurs in public institutions, such as the legal system or educational, health and social services, as well as in the framework of the public institutions actions.

Social exclusion implies not only material deprivation, but also feelings of inferiority, alienation, loss and shame. Being socially excluded is both social status and self-perception. Social exclusion reflects the status of an individual in relation to general society, which is much more than poverty in terms of income.<sup>7</sup>

The EU Council defines social exclusion as “the process by which certain individuals are pushed to the margins of society and prevented from participating fully in a society due to poverty or lack of basic knowledge and opportunities for lifelong learning, or as a result of

---

<sup>6</sup> Šućur, Z., 2004. Social exclusion: concept, approach and operationalization. Journal of Sociology, Vol. 35 No. 1-2, 2004.)

<sup>7</sup> SIF in BiH and IBHI, 2019; Towards the European Union - Key problems of social inclusion in BiH; Available at: [http://www.ibhi.ba/Documents/Publikacije/2019/Prvi\\_policy\\_papir\\_finalna\\_verzija.pdf](http://www.ibhi.ba/Documents/Publikacije/2019/Prvi_policy_papir_finalna_verzija.pdf). Accessed on: March 25, 2020.

discrimination. This distances them from opportunities, employment, income and education, as well as from the social networks that exist within the community”.<sup>8</sup>

Contrary to this notion is public policy against social exclusion, which is defined as social inclusion policies. According to the EU Council, social inclusion is “a process that enables those at risk of poverty and social exclusion to get the opportunity and resources necessary to participate fully in economic, social and cultural life and to achieve the standard of living and well-being considered normal in a society in which they live”.<sup>9</sup>

Social inclusion implies the state's engagement in solving inadequacy and overcoming systemic obstacles, and creating conditions for raising the quality of life of those who are excluded or on the margins of society, especially children and youth, the unemployed, people with disabilities, the elderly and other marginalized groups. A human-oriented approach forms the backbone of the concept of social inclusion.

The concept of social inclusion corresponds to the concepts of social cohesion and human development. Namely, the basic principles of a cohesive and humane society imply social inclusion as a basic postulate of a fair and democratic society. According to the redefined concept, “Human development is the expansion of people’s freedoms to live long, healthy and creative lives; to advance other goals that have reason to value; and to engage actively in shaping development equitably and sustainably on a shared planet. People are both the beneficiaries and the drivers of human development, as individuals and in groups”.<sup>10</sup>

Social inclusion is both a goal and a method of social development. In the context of social inclusion, social development implies a process of quantitative growth and qualitative changes that occur within the socio-economic structure of society, which relate to improving the position of socially marginalized groups in a society and improving conditions for meeting their existential, health, work and social needs.

Observing the social inclusion process from the perspective of those who are the most vulnerable members of the community means getting closer to the real problems of social exclusion in a society. Systems, institutions and service providers cannot adequately respond to states of social exclusion if they do not respect the perspective of citizens-beneficiaries of public funds and services. The beneficiary perspective implies the creation of efficient and functional solutions with the most optimal ratio of investment and achievement, i.e. the beneficiary perspective implies feasible and achievable social inclusion policies.

For the social inclusion context in BiH, the obligations stemming from the European Union accession process are especially important, which in this area is based on the implementation of the principles and rights established by the European Pillar of Social Rights<sup>11</sup>.

---

<sup>8</sup> EU Council, 2004.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> UNDP, 2010; Human Development Report (HDR 2010); Available at: [http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/reports/270/hdr\\_2010\\_en\\_complete\\_reprint.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/reports/270/hdr_2010_en_complete_reprint.pdf). Accessed on: March 25, 2020.

<sup>11</sup> The section "Social protection and inclusion" identifies ten priorities that Member States should work on, namely: Childcare and support to children; Social protection; Unemployment benefits; Minimum income; Old age income and pensions; Health Care; Inclusion of people with disabilities; Long-term care; Housing and assistance to homeless and Access to essential services. Available at:

The Government of the Republika Srpska made efforts to incorporate key development directions stemming from the European integration obligations into its official policies through the 2015 Reform Agenda, economic reforms plans for the period 2018-2022 and other strategic documents in certain areas. The goals of actions aimed at socially vulnerable groups of the population are parts of these documents, and the concept of social inclusion became indispensable in defining the general goals of community development.

The factors determining social development and social inclusion processes in the Republika Srpska stem from the current internal socio-economic processes, policies and practices of social activity, and the impact of global economic, social and environmental trends, including the consequences of the current pandemic caused by COVID -19.

## 2.2. Towards the Sustainable Development Goals

In September 2016, Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted the document "Transforming Our World; 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals as a monitoring framework". BiH has thus accepted the five basic principles on which the process of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals<sup>12</sup> is based on, and those are as follows:

- *Universality* – The Agenda applies to all countries
- *Integration* – sustainable development requires policies and programming that simultaneously include social, environmental and economic components
- *"Leaving no one behind"* – the aspects of generational and intergeneration equality should support transition towards sustainable development
- *Inclusiveness* – participation of all segments of society – everyone should be acting to fulfill it, no matter their race, gender, ethnicity or identity
- *Multi-stakeholder partnership* – Multi-stakeholder partnership should be put in place to help mobilization and spread of knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources as the means of enforcing the SDGs in all countries.<sup>13</sup>

The 2030 Agenda is a concept of society development that implies striking a balance between economic, social, cultural and environmental requirements in order to "meet the needs of present generations, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"<sup>14</sup>.

At the very core of the theory of sustainable development is the creation of a harmonious socio-economic environment that will enable the development of society without endangering the natural environment. In this sense, the goal of community development is the general wellbeing that does not neglect individual needs but recognizes them as raising

---

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/social-summit-european-pillar-social-rights-booklet\\_hr.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/social-summit-european-pillar-social-rights-booklet_hr.pdf). Accessed on: March 20, 2020.

<sup>12</sup> At the Sustainable Development Summit, held on 25 September 2015 in New York, United Nations Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, containing 17 Sustainable Development Goals to eradicate poverty, combat inequality and injustice, and address climate change issues by 2030.

<sup>13</sup> SIF in BiH and IBHI, (2019); Towards the European Union – Recommendation for improvement of social inclusion in BiH; Available at:

[http://www.ibhi.ba/Documents/Publikacije/2019/Drugi\\_policy%20papier\\_Prema\\_Evropskoj\\_Uniji\\_Preporuke\\_z\\_a\\_unaprijedjenje\\_socijalnog\\_ukljucivanja\\_u%20BiH.pdf](http://www.ibhi.ba/Documents/Publikacije/2019/Drugi_policy%20papier_Prema_Evropskoj_Uniji_Preporuke_z_a_unaprijedjenje_socijalnog_ukljucivanja_u%20BiH.pdf) Accessed on: April 10, 2020.

<sup>14</sup> This definition of sustainable development was first given in the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development "Our Common Future" (WECD - the so-called Brundtland Commission) in 1987.

the quality of life of each member in accordance with his/her needs and the opportunities provided by the environment.

The Paris Agreement<sup>15</sup> provides a direct link between the goals of sustainable development and climate change. In this context, the "Sendai Disaster Reduction Framework for 2015-2030" adopted at the 3<sup>rd</sup> UN World Conference, which is included in the 2030 Agenda<sup>16</sup> is also important. The goal of the UN is to "significantly reduce the risk of disasters and loss of human lives, livelihoods and health, and economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of individuals, companies, communities and countries. To achieve these goals, the implementation of "integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures" is required. It is emphasized that each state has the primary responsibility for disaster prevention and disaster risk reduction with the necessary international cooperation. This is especially significant in the event of natural disasters that take on a global character, such as the current crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to this document, the priorities for action by states in crisis situations and disasters are:

- Understanding disaster risk;
- Strengthening disaster risk management;
- Investing in disaster risk reduction;
- Strengthening disaster preparedness for an efficient response and for enhancement of rebuilding efforts during recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

The European Union has supported the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The European Consensus on Development among the member states represents the basis for harmonization of the EU development policy with the 2030 Agenda. It has committed to harmonize its policies with the proclaimed goals. In early 2019, the European Commission published a review document: "Towards a sustainable Europe by 2030"<sup>17</sup>. Using the UN Sustainable Development Goals as a guideline, the document sets out the foundations for sustainability policy:

- From linear to circular economy, which reduces waste and the need to allocate new resources;
- Sustainability from farm to fork, modernized common agricultural policy and a sustainable food system;
- Future-proof energy, buildings and mobility, i.e. clean energy crucial for a sustainable future;
- Ensure social justice and support fair transition to sustainability, where the promotion of social rights and the well being of all contributes to social cohesion in the Member States and across the EU.<sup>18</sup>

---

<sup>15</sup> See "Paris Agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change", Official Gazette of BiH, MU1 / 17; Available at: [http://www.mvteo.gov.ba/data/Home/Документи/Водни%20ресурси/Konvencije%20okoliš/Pariški\\_sporazu\\_Hrv.pdf](http://www.mvteo.gov.ba/data/Home/Документи/Водни%20ресурси/Konvencije%20okoliš/Pariški_sporazu_Hrv.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> The 2030 Agenda includes, in addition to the UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Action Plan of the 3<sup>rd</sup> United Nations Conference on Development Financing of July 2015, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change of April 2016.

<sup>17</sup> EU (2019); Available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/reflection-paper-towards-sustainable-europe-2030\\_hr](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/reflection-paper-towards-sustainable-europe-2030_hr) Accessed on: June 2020.

<sup>18</sup> SIF in BiH and IBHI, (2019); Towards the European Union – Recommendation for improvement of social inclusion in BiH; Available at: <http://www.ibhi.ba/Documents/Publikacije/2019/> Accessed on: April 15, 2020.

The European Union and the United Nations are partners in building a safer and better world for all. Their joint engagement in achieving the Global Sustainable Development Goals is recognized as a synergy at the international level. The new European planning period 2021-2027 will be focused precisely on creating a sustainable European Union based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this way, the BiH connection with the obligations arising from the sustainable development goals is two-fold: through the implementation of the UNDP Strategic Plan<sup>19</sup> and through the obligations stemming from the EU integration process. By accepting the SDGs, BiH has committed itself to their full implementation in all development and planning documents<sup>20</sup>.

Through the MAPS process in December 2018, four broader directions of sustainable development in BiH were identified, namely: good governance and management of the public sector, smart growth, investment in a new social contract and human capital for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The Government of the Republika Srpska, with the Conclusion from September 2017, confirmed the commitment of the Republika Srpska to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and its readiness to implement those goals in its strategic documents, thus initiating the creation of the operational infrastructure for the monitoring of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Working Group for Improving the Future Strategic Planning and Development Management System, formed by the Government in July 2018, defined the vision and guiding principles of the future strategic planning system, including sustainable development, vertical and horizontal alignment of policies and priorities and social inclusion/equal opportunities for all.<sup>21</sup>

The new situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic confirms the need to understand that natural disasters have a very significant impact on achieving the sustainable development goals. The consequences of the pandemic are changing the approach to understanding and implementation of all seventeen goals defined by the 2030 Agenda, and especially the goals related to health and wellbeing (No. 3), the fight against poverty (No. 1), reducing inequality in society (No. 10) and strengthening partnerships and cooperation in the world (No. 17).

### 3 THE CONTEXT OF SOCIAL INCLUSION IN THE REPUBLIKA SRPSKA – WHERE ARE THE PROBLEMS?

---

<sup>19</sup> All 17 Sustainable Development Goals are linked to the thematic areas of the UNDP Strategic Plan, namely: sustainable development, democratic governance, peace building, and climate and disaster resilience. Goal 1, which refers to poverty, Goal 10, which refers to inequality, and Goal 16, which refers to governance, are especially important for the current activities of UNDP and long-term planning in BiH (Ibid).

<sup>20</sup> Just before the declaration of the state of emergency caused by the COVID 19 pandemic, UNDP and BiH institutions worked on the Cooperation Framework for Sustainable Development 2021-2025. Partnership for Sustainable Development defines four strategic priorities for cooperation between BiH and the UN, namely: Sustainable, resilient and inclusive growth; Quality, accessible and inclusive education, Health and social protection; Governance and the rule of law focused on people; and Engaging citizens and the community for social cohesion.

<sup>21</sup> UNDP. 2019. Voluntary Report of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals. Available at: [https://www.undp.org/content/dam/bosnia\\_and\\_herzegovina/docs/News/SDGs%20Roll-Out/VNR-BiH-LOC-Final.pdf](https://www.undp.org/content/dam/bosnia_and_herzegovina/docs/News/SDGs%20Roll-Out/VNR-BiH-LOC-Final.pdf) Accessed on: April 13, 2020.

The social inclusion policies largely depend on the factors that determine the current state of economic and social development of the community, but also the social awareness on the importance of the inclusion of socially excluded persons into social developments. The circumstances in which the Republika Srpska creates and realizes its development and which directly influence social inclusion policies are the result of dynamic changes in the field of economic development, demographic changes, management of social problems (risks) and European integration.

### 3.1. Economic development

The consequences of war, transition losses, natural disasters and consequences of economic, social and political trends in the world, the region and in BiH are the main determinants of the context for the economic and social development of the Republika Srpska.

| Makroekonomski indikatori Republike Srpske prije pandemije |            |            |            |            |            |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| INDIKATORI                                                 | 2014.      | 2015.      | 2016.      | 2017.      | 2018.      |
| Broj stanovnika u RS (procjena)                            | 1.167.082  | 1.162.164  | 1.157.516  | 1.153.017  | 1.147.902  |
| Nominalni BDP (u 000 KM)                                   | 8.887.307  | 9.205.038  | 9.630.569  | 10.077.017 | 10.681.638 |
| Realna stopa rasta (u %)                                   | 0,3%       | 2,8%       | 3,5%       | 3,1%       | 3,9%       |
| Broj zaposlenih                                            | 243.102    | 245.975    | 235.305    | 260.608    | 266.309    |
| Broj nezaposlenih                                          | 142.675    | 139.465    | 131.659    | 114.364    | 105.793    |
| Prosječna neto plata (u KM)                                | 825        | 831        | 836        | 831        | 857        |
| Stopa rasta industrijske proizvodnje (u %)                 | 0,7%       | 2,7%       | 8,1%       | 1,4%       | 3,60%      |
| Izvoz (u 000 KM)                                           | 2.692.013  | 2.613.924  | 2.869.101  | 3.476.093  | 3.741.165  |
| Uvoz (u 000 KM)                                            | 4.946.061  | 4.369.179  | 4.426.945  | 4.899.081  | 5.216.648  |
| Saldo robne razmjene (u 000 KM)                            | -2.254.048 | -1.755.255 | -1.557.844 | -1.422.988 | -1.475.483 |
| Pokrivenost uvoza izvozom                                  | 54,40%     | 59,80%     | 64,80%     | 71,00%     | 71,70%     |
| Inflacija (potrošačke cijene, %)                           | -1,2%      | -1,4%      | -1,2%      | 0,5%       | 1,2%       |

Izvor: Privredna komora Republike Srpske, Dostupno na: <https://komorars.ba/makroekonomija/>

Over the last ten years, the Republika Srpska economy has shown a significant level of resilience, although it has suffered several internal and external shocks at the economic and social level<sup>22</sup>. The overall economic development had a rather slow dynamics of overall growth due to such circumstances. Macroeconomic indicators show that the economic development of Republika Srpska has stagnated for several years before the COVID-19 virus pandemic.

The document "Economic Reforms Program of the Republika Srpska for the period 2020-2022", adopted by the RS National Assembly in December 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, states that an additional slowdown in economic activities is expected in the future.<sup>23</sup> The program reads: "The economic activity in the Western Balkans is slowing down, with continued decline in investment and exports in the six countries in the region".

<sup>22</sup> In that period, the global economic crisis escalated (2008-2012) as well as catastrophic floods (2014), which brought new problems and led to a slowdown in economic development in BiH. It is estimated that in Republika Srpska alone, the damage from the floods was around BAM 963.30 million.

<sup>23</sup> The program was developed by the Government of the RS, and represents the fulfillment of obligations arising from the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) between the European Communities and their Member States, on the one hand, and Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), on the other.

According to the estimates of the new World Bank Regular Report entitled Rising Uncertainties from October 2019, the growth in 2019 will amount to 3.2%, which is a slowdown in growth compared to 3.9% in 2018. Although the growth of the regional economy is projected for 2020 and 2021, it will remain slightly below the ten-year maximum reached in 2018. In BiH, the economic development in 2019 is expected to decline to 3.1%, which is lower than in 2018 when it was 3.6%. Services are the area that produces the most new value and contributes to GDP growth. For 2020 and 2021, growth rates are projected at 3.4% and 3.9%, respectively. Unemployment continues to decline, but employment has not accelerated. Labor market inactivity increased in 2019, suggesting that the larger number of people left the labor market, than the number of people who found jobs. In BiH, public debt as a percentage of GDP remains moderate, while a deficit is expected, largely as a result of increased current spending. The investment process has slowed down primarily due to the failure to form government. Economic growth in BiH can be expected only with the continuation of reforms".<sup>24</sup>

According to the estimates of the RS Institute of Statistics, the GDP of Republika Srpska in the fourth quarter of 2019, compared to the same quarter of 2018, has a positive growth rate of 2.6% while the average GDP growth for the period January - December 2019 is 2.5 %. In terms of the activity areas, the largest contribution to the GDP growth in the fourth quarter was made by wholesale, retail, repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles, transport and storage companies, accommodation services, food preparation and catering services, hospitality and hotels, while industrial production was reduced by 1.4% (mining and quarrying) and up to 17.1% (energy production) in the period January - February 2020.<sup>25</sup>

Considering the abovementioned, it is visible that the economic indicators in the Republika Srpska immediately before the outbreak of the epidemic crisis indicated a decrease in the economic activity, and that economic development was based on those economic activities that were the first affected by restrictions and bans at the beginning of the pandemic.

The sudden outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought a health, security and economic threat on a global scale, significantly affected the overall economic development and development prospects in BiH and the Republika Srpska. The measures of social isolation and the state of emergency that were quickly imposed, led to a complete change in the social and economic life of almost all countries in the world. Within a month, economic flows and economic activities were completely interrupted. Many production and service activities have been stopped. The areas of trade, transport and tourism have experienced a complete collapse.

The economy and economic development of the Republika Srpska have been seriously jeopardized, and nobody knows what the economic picture will be after the pandemic. In any case, the predictions of economic experts are very gloomy. In April 2020, the World Bank estimated that real GDP at the level of BiH in 2020 would fall from -3.2 to -4.2 %.<sup>26</sup>

---

<sup>24</sup> RS Government, (2019); Economic Reform Proposal for the Republika Srpska for the period 2020-2022; Available at: <https://www.narodnaskupstinars.net/?q=la/akti/ostali-akti/program-ekonomskih-reformi-republike-srpske-za-period-2020-2022-godina>. Accessed on: March 25, 2020.

<sup>25</sup> RS Government. (2020); Macroeconomic indicators of Republika Srpska; Available at: <http://www.vladars.net/sr-SP-Cyrl/Vlada/Ministarstva/mf/Documents/> Accessed on: April 20, 2020.

<sup>26</sup> World Bank (2020); Recession Looms for Western Balkans as Countries Respond to COVID-19; Available at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/bosniaandherzegovina> Accessed on: July 2020.

The data of the RS Institute of Statistics show that the gross domestic product in the second quarter was 6.9% lower in real terms than in the same period in 2019. The largest decline in gross domestic product of 25.2% compared to the same period in 2019 occurred in the field of services.<sup>27</sup>

Travel restrictions and social distancing measures have a particularly long-term impact on tourism and services, with the latter accounting for about 50 percent of total employment. Supply disruptions and lower demand further affect many manufacturing sectors, and liquidity constraints and current uncertainty delay investments.<sup>28</sup>

Therefore, it is quite reasonable to expect that the economic recovery of the Republika Srpska will be very difficult and uncertain. The measures that the Government of Republika Srpska took<sup>29</sup> and will take towards the economy will certainly contribute to mitigating the economic consequences of the pandemic, but due to the significant reduction of inflows into public funds and budgets of the RS and the local communities, difficulties in financing liabilities to citizens are inevitable. It is very important that the dynamics of payments and amounts of social benefits are not subject to restrictions, because that would increase the pressure on socially vulnerable groups of citizens and put them in an even more difficult socio-economic position.

The recommendations of the UNDP are aimed at achieving a full consensus on measures at all levels of the executive authorities, with the adoption of specific measures focused on facilitation of the business operations of companies, especially those whose activities were or will be affected by the consequences of pandemic. It is very important to adopt all measures in a transparent manner with full information to those who are directly concerned, but also to the general public. Special attention should be paid to supporting new employment and opening of new companies, especially start-up of young people and the ones focused on domestic resources. Through new technologies and the application of innovative solutions in the private and public sector, society's response to the consequences of the pandemic can be significantly improved and the measures can be made more efficient.<sup>30</sup>

### 3.2. Demographic changes

The economic development of a community is based on the population, its engagement and involvement in the economic processes. The population is the most important element of the overall development of a society. From the economic development perspective, man is the main driver and the resource of development processes in the community. There is no development if there are no people to be the holders of that development and to whom the

---

<sup>27</sup> Information published in daily newspapers. See: <https://www.nezavisne.com/ekonomija/trziste/Pad-BDP-a-u-Srpskoj-za-69-odsto/624093> Accessed on: October 2020.

<sup>28</sup> According to the results of the study on the impact of the pandemic on business conducted by the Union of Employer Associations of the Republika Srpska, in the first three months of the crisis, a quarter of companies completely stopped their business, while 39% of them operated on a very small scale. Only 3% of the surveyed business entities operated in their full, unchanged capacity. Available at: <http://unijauprs.org/dokumenti/covid-19/covid-19-RS.html> Accessed on: September 2020.

<sup>29</sup> See the list of documents adopted by the Government of the Republika Srpska in order to intervene and protect the domestic economy, on page 5 of this text.

<sup>30</sup> UNDP (2020); Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in BiH; Available at: [https://www.ba.undp.org/content/bosnia\\_and\\_herzegovina/en/home/library/publications/EconomicImpactAssessment.html](https://www.ba.undp.org/content/bosnia_and_herzegovina/en/home/library/publications/EconomicImpactAssessment.html) Accessed on: June 2, 2020.

development will be intended. Therefore, the issue of demographic change is one of the key elements to keep in mind when creating the development of a community.

The demographic situation in the Republika Srpska is bad with a tendency to worsen. As in other parts of BiH and the region, statistical indicators show a large presence of negative demographic changes that have a devastating effect on the overall economic and social development of society.

The Republika Srpska is a small community situated on a large area. The total area of the Republika Srpska is 24,641 km<sup>2</sup>. According to the 2013 Census, the number of inhabitants in the Republika Srpska was 1,170,342, so the average population density is 47 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>, which places the Republika Srpska among the sparsely populated European regions. This distribution of the population further complicates its economic and social development.<sup>31</sup>

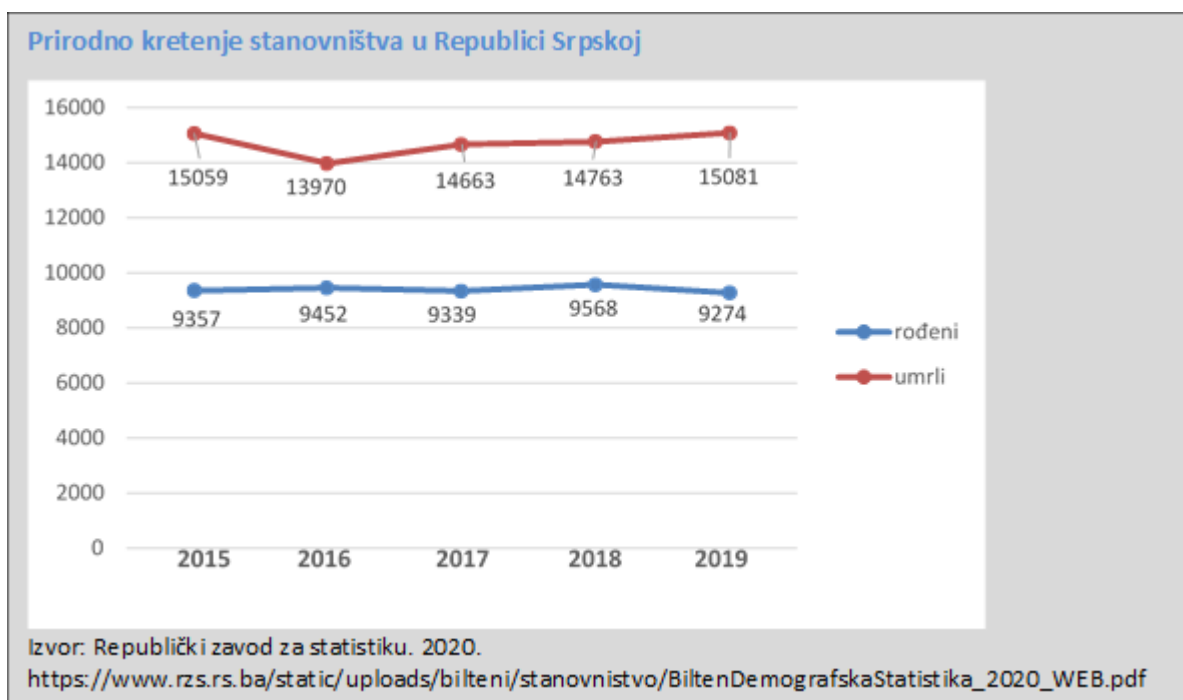
There are three key processes that determine the demographic destiny of the Republika Srpska: the process of depopulation (reduction of population), negative migration trends (emigration of fertile and working population) and the process of demographic aging (increase of the share of elderly in the total population).

According to the estimates of the RS Institute of Statistics, the number of inhabitants is constantly decreasing. Every year, that number is lower by several thousands. Estimates of the RS Institute of Statistics show that there were 1,147,902 people living in the Republika Srpska in 2018, which is a decrease of twenty-five thousand compared to the data from 2013. However, the true extent of depopulation can be seen when comparing birth and mortality data, and when adding to this data estimates on the emigration process that has been intensive in recent years. Namely, since 2001, the Republika Srpska has continuously had a negative balance in natural increase. The number of deceased is constantly higher from year to year, while at the same time the number of births is constantly decreasing. The difference between the number of deaths and the number of births in 2019 was about six thousand, which brought the negative birth rate close to -5.<sup>32</sup>

---

<sup>31</sup> The population density ranges from 20 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup> in Eastern Herzegovina to 150 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup> in Semberija. RS Institute of Statistics, 2020; Monthly statistical review - February 2020; Available at: [https://www.rzs.rs.ba/static/uploads/bilteni/mesecni\\_statisticki\\_pregled/2020/Mjesecni\\_statisticki\\_pregled\\_Februar\\_2020\\_Web.pdf](https://www.rzs.rs.ba/static/uploads/bilteni/mesecni_statisticki_pregled/2020/Mjesecni_statisticki_pregled_Februar_2020_Web.pdf) Accessed on: March 26, 2020.

<sup>32</sup> RS Institute of Statistics, 2019, Statistical Yearbook 2019; Available at: [https://www.rzs.rs.ba/static/uploads/bilteni/godisnjak/2019/05stn\\_2019.pdf](https://www.rzs.rs.ba/static/uploads/bilteni/godisnjak/2019/05stn_2019.pdf) Accessed on: March 25, 2020.



The migration flows have so far had a very significant impact on the potential of the demographic, economic and social development of the Republika Srpska. The war that erupted in 1991 in these areas triggered the forcible relocation of the population, initially within the former Yugoslavia and later outside the region. This trend continued after the end of the war, while the reasons for emigration have changed. The coercion resulting from the war devastations was increasingly replaced by a desire to secure an economically safe future for themselves and their family members.

Although the emigration has been present in these areas for several decades, the most intensive emigration processes took place immediately after the end of the war, from 1995 to 2000, and after the catastrophic floods that hit BiH in 2014. The reasons for leaving are no longer just poverty and unemployment, which was the case fifty years ago when only unskilled labor and individuals emigrated. Educated and highly qualified individuals, often well situated, are now moving out, taking entire families with them with no intention of returning. The families with children are leaving BiH, even if parents have secure jobs and decent wages, the increasingly common explanation is that they are looking for better conditions for children's development, their education, quality of life and general security. It is estimated that over 173,000 people<sup>33</sup> have left BiH in the last five years. With the departure of the demographically perspective and developmentally potent part of the population, the Republika Srpska is permanently losing the basic potential of its development, and that is the people.

The age structure of the population is also unfavorable. Namely, the Republika Srpska is in an intensive process of population aging, which means that the share of the elderly, demographically unpromising and population incapable to work in the total population is

<sup>33</sup> SIF in BiH and IBHI, 2019; Towards the European Union - Key problems of social inclusion in BiH; Available at: [http://www.ibhi.ba/Documents/Publikacije/2019/Prvi\\_policy\\_papir\\_finalna\\_verzija.pdf](http://www.ibhi.ba/Documents/Publikacije/2019/Prvi_policy_papir_finalna_verzija.pdf). Accessed on: March 25, 2020

constantly increasing.<sup>34</sup> According to official data, the number of elderly has greatly exceeded the limit when one community is considered "demographically old". The share of persons over 65 in the total population of the Republika Srpska, based on the results of the 2013 Census, was 17.12 percent, while according to estimates for 2016, it has already increased to 18.42 percent. Other indicators showing the aging of the community are also increasing. The average age increased from 41.63 years in 2013 to 42.44 in 2016. The coefficient of age dependence, which illustrates the ratio of the old population and the working age population, increased from 24.69 to 27.13 in the same period. The aging index, which indicates the percentage of people aged 60 and over in relation to the number of young people aged 0-19, increased from 120.92 to 137.40.<sup>35</sup>

The demographic process that has not yet become a serious problem in BiH, and threatens to become, is the migration of residents of African and Asian mostly poor and underdeveloped countries to EU countries that began in 2014 and culminated in 2015. Although BiH is not a target destination for migrants, their number is increasing from year to year. Namely, the policy of closed doors by the EU countries has brought the countries of the Western Balkans into a very difficult situation, especially BiH, which borders with the EU. Due to the impossibility of further passage, migrants began to settle in BiH in increasing numbers, especially in the western part of BiH. The issues of accommodation of migrants, provision of existential conditions for life to migrants, while ensuring the security of the domestic population have become priority issues in BiH at the end of 2018 and the beginning of 2019. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic initially reduced the number of new migrants in BiH, but the situation continued to deteriorate over time. In March 2020, there was a decrease in the number of attempts of illegal border crossings, but the situation around their accommodation became more complicated. According to estimates, the number of migrants in the entire territory of BiH varies between five and ten thousand. Most of them are accommodated in shelters, but a certain number of them are outside the control of the competent institutions.

The current situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to slowing down the arrival of migrants and thus reducing the pressure of the migrant crisis, abruptly stopped the process of emigration of the domicile population, which will certainly affect the socio-economic situation in the country. To what extent and in which direction this impact will develop remains to be seen, but it should not be forgotten that the consequences of the pandemic have left the most devastating effects on the economy, which is the basis for creating the necessary resources for employment and strengthening the country's social security system.

---

<sup>34</sup> The causes of demographic aging of the population can be classified into two groups: a group of demographic factors and a group of external factors. The group of demographic factors includes: reduced birth rates, reduced mortality and migration. The group of external factors includes economic and social factors that are directly dependent on the specific features of a country and its social, political and economic development and current social situation. (Lepir, Lj., 2018. Social protection planning for the elderly, Banja Luka: Faculty of Political Science).

<sup>35</sup> Data taken from the "Strategy for Improving the Position of the Elderly in the Republika Srpska, 2019-2028"; Available at: [https://www.vladars.net/sr-SP/Cyrl/Vlada/Ministarstva/MZSZ/dokumenti/Pages/Socijalna\\_zastita.aspx](https://www.vladars.net/sr-SP/Cyrl/Vlada/Ministarstva/MZSZ/dokumenti/Pages/Socijalna_zastita.aspx) Accessed on: April 1, 2020.

### 3.3. Towards the EU integration – reforms as a condition

The Stabilization and Association Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of one side, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, of the other side, which is the basis for the implementation of the accession process, entered into force in June 2015 and replaced the Interim Agreement, which was in force since 2008. In February 2016, BiH submitted an official application for the membership in the European Union. Then, BiH submitted the answers to the Questionnaire of the European Commission on February 28, 2018, and on March 4, 2019, the answers to additional questions from the Questionnaire of the European Commission. The European Commission adopted the Opinion on BiH's application for membership in the European Union on May 29, 2019, with the accompanying Analytical Report, including the guidelines and steps that need to be fulfilled to open membership negotiations.<sup>36</sup>

The general assessment of the European Commission is that "Bosnia and Herzegovina does not have any policy area where the country has a good level of preparation or is well advanced regarding its capacity to undertake the obligations stemming from EU membership". In line with 33 chapters of the Questionnaire, the Commission assessed that in 15 areas the country is at the early stage of preparation (among those are the social policy and employment), in 16 it has some level of preparation and only in two it is moderately prepared.

The social policy, the area in which most social inclusion policies are implemented, is in the group of the least prepared areas. The Analytical Report (Chapter 19) attached to the Commission's Opinion specifies the poor assessment of social policy: "the preparation for BiH's use of the European Social Fund has not started... On social inclusion and protection, there are no countrywide strategies on poverty reduction, social inclusion and protection or a system at countrywide level for monitoring policy implementation". The specific criticism was focused on:

- Children, because "almost a third (30.6%) of children aged 5 to 15 are at risk of poverty";
- Persons with disability, since "institutional care is still prevalent and services within the community are not adequately supported";
- Women, due to low level of "implementation of anti-discrimination laws and regulations";
- Senior citizens, since „there are no systematic measures to improve the situation of elderly“)<sup>37</sup>

Also, the criticism was directed at the existing social protection system, because it is "underdeveloped while the efficiency of social transfers is limited... social assistance is not well targeted or approved on the basis of needs... and therefore the effects on poverty reduction are very limited," and non-implementation of entity strategies related to social inclusion and protection, due to the fact that they "are not implemented due to lack of funds, inadequate procedures and standards, and general lack of coordination." Among the

---

<sup>36</sup> Both documents available at: <http://europa.ba/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Analiti%C4%8Dki-izvje%C5%A1taj-Mi%C5%A1ljenje-Komisije-o-zahtjevu-Bosne-i-Hercegovine-za-%C4%8Dlanstvo-u-Evropskoj-uniji.pdf>

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

fourteen recommendations given by the European Commission in the Opinion on BiH's application for membership in the European Union, there is also recommendation no. 13 which refers to the need to improve the protection and inclusion of "vulnerable groups, especially persons with disabilities, children, LGBT persons, members of the Roma community, detainees, migrants and asylum seekers, as well as displaced persons and refugees in order to close the Annex VII of the Dayton Peace Agreement".

By giving such importance to the problems of the social position of marginalized groups, the institutions of the European Union want to point out that the social inclusion policies are unavoidable issues in the process of BiH's accession to the European Union. In this sense, the BiH authorities will have to prioritize social inclusion issues in their development goals, and the Social Inclusion Strategy is an imperative step in that direction.

### 3.4. Problems/risks of social exclusion of marginalized groups

Similarly to the socially excluded, marginalized groups are defined as those groups of individuals who are on the periphery of the social system and who are furthest in the distribution of power, material goods, social reputation, and who do not influence important social flows, often those that affect their quality of life.

The social exclusion that accompanies marginalized groups at the manifest level is recognized through the social problems/risks that determine their daily lives. The common understanding of the social problem in contemporary definitions is that it is a circumstance "created" by society that can at the same time be facilitated or solved by a society. In order for a certain phenomenon, social circumstance or behavior to be called a "social problem", it must meet three conditions: 1. undoubtedly conditioned by a society 2. real or perceived threat to certain values or interests 3. possibility of improvement or elimination, reduction or solution<sup>38</sup>.

Social problems are both consequences and causes of social exclusion. They are also indicators of the state of social exclusion, and the state of social inclusion implies the absence of social problems and the reduction of their causes. Prevention and solving (suppression) of social problems are the most specific and the most obvious actions of the state and its institutions towards conditions that pose a threat to an individual, family or a group in increasing the quality of their lives and achieving a greater degree of integration into society.

The key socially adverse processes that generate social problems and that affect the state of social exclusion in society are: the process of impoverishment and social stratification of a society; the process of discrimination, marginalization and systemic neglect of the interests of socially vulnerable groups; the gender inequality process; the process of transforming the family and family values; the process of technology mainstreaming in everyday life, and the unfinished processes of overcoming the still present consequences of war and the transitional transformation of society.

#### 3.4.1. Children and youth protection

Children and youth are the most important resource for the development of Republika Srpska. Faced with a continuous decline in the share of children and youth in the total

---

<sup>38</sup> Jamrozik and Nocella, 1998, according to Ajduković, M. 2008, Social problems, social risks and modern social work, Social Policy Journal, No. 3, pg. 396.)

population, the Republika Srpska is taking a number of measures at the Entity and local levels to stop these processes and redirect them to positive outcomes.

In the past ten years, the Government of the Republika Srpska has adopted several strategic documents concerning the problems and position of children, youth and families with children. The following were adopted: Family Strategy, Policy and Program for the Improvement of Early Childhood Development, Youth Health Policy and Strategy, Strategy for Improvement of the Social Position of Persons with Disabilities, Education Development Strategy, Sexual and Reproductive Health Improvement Strategy, Strategy for Combating Domestic Violence, Strategy for Improvement of Social Protection of Children without Parental Care, Youth Policy, etc. Several laws and bylaws have also been adopted that institutionally regulate certain areas, thus creating a realistic basis for initiating a comprehensive population renewal of Republika Srpska.<sup>39</sup> Despite the adopted documents and implemented measures, the social position of these groups is still fraught with social problems. Situational analyzes made during the preparation of these documents illustrate a worrying process of intensification of social problems/risks faced by children, youth and families with children in the Republika Srpska.

Problems/risks that determine the state of social exclusion of children, youth and families with children are related to all spheres of life, and especially to the material conditions in which children and their families live; current problems in the systems of education, health care, social, family and child protection; youth employment; special protection of minors during the court proceedings; support for large families and implementation of population policy measures.

The situation analyzes in BiH done by UNICEF<sup>40</sup> illustrate that 73.8% of children aged 5-15 is deprived in at least one dimension, and 22.8% in three or more dimensions. Almost one third (30.6 %) of children of this age is poor, below absolute poverty line, and this is the main reason for deprivation in other dimensions. Younger children (aged 0-4) are mostly deprived in terms of nutrition (71.8 %) and child development (65.7%). Roma children and children with disabilities are in the state of chronic multidimensional poverty which is the result of the generational social exclusion, discrimination and inherited family poverty. The estimate is that 6.5% of children aged 2-9 have some form of disability. They are the most marginalized and excluded group in our society. The share of children below 18 with developmental disabilities in the total population of BiH is 0.9% i.e. 6,239.

#### **Absolute poverty of children and unemployed youth in the RS according to EHBS data\***

- Children aged 0-14 make 12% of the total population of the RS.
- The absolute poverty rate for children aged 0-14 is 24%. Almost one out of five poor persons in the RS or 20% of poor persons are children aged 0-14.
- Young unemployed persons (aged 15-24) make 3% or every thirty-third person in the RS.
- At the RS level, 19% or every fourth young unemployed person is absolutely poor.
- Absolutely poor young unemployed persons make 4% of all poor persons in the RS.

\* EHBS – Extended Household Budget Surveys conducted in BiH in 2015

Available at:

<https://www.unicef.org/bih/media/376/file/Situaciona%20analiza%20o%20polo%C5%BEaju%20djece%20sa%20pote%C5%A1ko%C4%87ama%20u%20BiH.pdf> Accessed on: May 20, 2020.

According to the BiH child protection index<sup>41</sup>, the child vulnerability index is 0.472 out of 1.0. In terms of the results in the field of child protection, the child protection index is 0.3 out of 1.0, which puts BiH at the last place in the group of 8 countries (Serbia, Kosovo\*, Georgia, Romania, Bulgaria, Albania, Armenia, BiH).

According to the data of the RS Institute of Statistics, the number of live births decreased from 12,200 in 1996, to about 9,200, recorded in 2019. The total number of children under the age of 15, in just five years, decreased from 162,864 in 2014 to 154,323 in 2018, and the number of young people aged 15 to 30 in the same period was lower by fifteen thousand.<sup>42</sup> The data are the illustration of a worrying trend of decreasing biological potential for the overall development of Republika Srpska.

The same source provides data on the decrease in the number of children and youth in primary and secondary schools, with the visible trend of decrease in the number of children attending educational institutions. The total number of students in all grades in primary schools in the Republika Srpska, in the period from 2015/2016 until 2019/2020 is lower by about six and a half thousand students. The number of "first graders" decreased from 10,500 in the 2014/2015 school year, to 9,293 in the 2019/2020 school year. The number of high school students is also lower. Their number decreased in the 2019/2020 school year by 3.4% compared to the number in the previous year.

Contrary to the situation in primary and secondary education, the number of children covered by pre-school education is continuously increasing, which is an indicator of increased investment in this area and greater accessibility of preschool institutions, especially in urban areas. In the school year 2019/2020 in 174 preschool institutions, the number of children who were included in a program of preschool education is 13,138, of which 6,337 or 48.2% are girls. In comparison to 2018/2019, the number of children attending the preschool institutions increased by 8.1%, and the number of children in nursery groups increased by 9.4%.

The situation in higher education institutions is similar to that in secondary schools. Number of enrolled students in the 2019/2020 academic year, compared to the previous year, is lower by 1,935 students, or 6.7%, and compared to the academic year 2009/2010 that number is lower for about eighteen thousand.<sup>43</sup>

With the decline in the number of enrolled students, a major problem for public universities is the employment prospects for the graduates. Namely, the mismatch between the output profiles of occupations and the labor market has been a bottleneck of the higher education development for years. In addition, the presence of private universities of dubious quality, organizational and financial problems of public universities, the unfinished process of "bolognization", the de facto reduced autonomy of public universities, and the presence of

---

<sup>41</sup> The Child Protection Index (UNICEF) measures five dimensions: Policies and laws, services, capacities, coordination and accountability, and consists of 626 indicators divided into 4 measures: 1) vulnerability of children; 2) governance structure; 3) activity on elimination and suppression of violence and strengthening of care and protection of children, 4) capacities for social work.

<sup>42</sup> RS IoS. (2019); Demographic statistics – Bulletin for 2018; Available at:

[https://www.rzs.rs.ba/static/uploads/bilteni/stanovnistvo/BiltenDemografskaStatistika\\_2019\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.rzs.rs.ba/static/uploads/bilteni/stanovnistvo/BiltenDemografskaStatistika_2019_WEB.pdf)

Accessed on: May 10, 2020.

<sup>43</sup> RS IoS; (2020). Announcements; Available at:

<https://www.rzs.rs.ba/static/uploads/saopstenja/obrazovanje/pdf> Accessed on: May 15, 2020.

the practice of "buying diplomas" are undermining the higher education system in the Republika Srpska.

A special problem is the education of children with disabilities<sup>44</sup>. Although the system of inclusion of children with disabilities in regular schooling is well designed, even fourteen years after the establishment of inclusive education in BiH, many problems in the practice have not been resolved. Some of them are: inadequacy of curricula for work with children, a very small number of experts in this field, lack of teaching assistants, lack of equipment and teaching aids in schools, etc.

#### **Multi-member families and poverty**

- Every third inhabitant or 30% of the total population in the RS lives in households with five or more members.
- At the RS level, 25% or every fourth person living in households with 5 or more members is absolutely poor.
- Absolutely poor people living in a household with 5 or more members make 54% or approximately half of all absolutely poor people in the RS.

In the school year 2018/2019 in the Republika Srpska, 1,317 children with disabilities were included in regular primary school classes, and 373 more in special classes. 339 students with disabilities attend regular secondary schools, and another 106 attend special classes (schools).<sup>45</sup> Out of the total number of children from this group who are included in the educational process, 51% attend regular schools in line with an individualized curriculum, 37% attend regular classes in line with a special program, 8% attend special schools, 3% attend special classes in regular schools, and only 1% of children with disabilities are attending the preschool education institutions.<sup>46</sup>

Health care for preschool and school children is organized through family medicine teams and through specialist consultative clinics and is a key prerequisite for healthy and quality development of children and youth. According to the data of the Public Health Institute, in 2018, there were over six thousand visits of preschool and school age children to health institutions. Of the total number of registered diseases and conditions of children, the leading are diseases of the respiratory system (about 35%), symptoms, signs and pathological clinical and laboratory findings and diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue. A significant reason for visits to health care institutions for preschool and school

<sup>44</sup> The legislation of the Republika Srpska uses different synonyms for the same term children with disabilities, and they are: "children with developmental disabilities", "children with special needs"; "children with developmental delays", etc. In this text, we have opted for the term "children with disabilities" which is most consistently used in the Law on Social Protection (Official Gazette of RS, Official Gazette, no. 37/2012, 90/2016, 94/2019 and 42/2020)

<sup>45</sup> RS IoS; (2020). Announcements; Available at:

<https://www.rzs.rs.ba/static/uploads/saopstenja/obrazovanje/pdf> Accessed on: May 15, 2020.

<sup>46</sup> Ombudsmen for Children in the Republika Srpska (2019); Annual Report; Available at:

<http://www.djeca.rs.ba/index.php?p=474&lang=1> Accessed on: March 2020.

children is preventive services (systematic examinations, immunization, etc.), with the share of around 22% in the total number of interventions.<sup>47</sup>

Immunization is a key preventive activity by which the community provides conditions for the healthy and unhampered development of a child. Public discussions about the appropriateness of immunization have done great damage to achieving the goals of infectious diseases prevention and achieving a satisfactory level of immunization among children.<sup>48</sup> Every year, the Public Health Institute adopts the Immunization Calendar in order to timely inform the public and parents about the obligation to vaccinate children and to ensure coverage of as many children as possible. According to the data of the RS Public Health Institute, for the MMR vaccine, which protects against the measles, mumps and rubella virus, the immunization coverage for 2018 was 83.42 percent for the first dose and 92.75 percent for the second dose of this vaccine. The lowest immunization rate is among Roma children due to a combination of limited mobility, lack of health insurance, poor access to services, negative attitudes and mutual mistrust between Roma and public institutions, including health workers.<sup>49</sup>

In order to act in a timely and efficient manner on the child's development, it is necessary to systematically ensure synergy in monitoring of key development areas, in particular: physical and motoric development; cognitive development; socio-emotional development; speech/communication and self-help/self-care. Crucial to this process is the existence of institutional capacities, which should exist in all systems of social activity dealing with children and their development.<sup>50</sup>

The number of specialized outpatient clinics for child protection, as well as the number of pediatricians is insufficient, which is especially evident in the process of monitoring developmental problems and the availability of health specialist services based on the child's place of residence. Also, the capacities (human and organizational) of other systems' institutions, especially the education system and the social protection system, are not sufficiently trained and connected in order to bring the process of monitoring children's development to the level of optimal functionality. Although there are all preconditions for strengthening the institutional capacities, the situation in this area is not promising: counseling centers in the social protection system are not opened, social workers are not employed in educational institutions, assistants in the education system are sporadically engaged and existing practices do not recognize the need for joint multisectoral activities in this area.

The Solidarity Fund was established at the end of 2017 with the aim to collect additional funds in accordance with the Law on the Solidarity Fund (Official Gazette of the RS, No. 100/17) in order to enable diagnostics and treatment of children abroad, when it is not

---

<sup>47</sup> RS Public Health Institute. (2018). Health situation of the population in the Republika Srpska, in 2018; Available at: <https://www.phi.rs.ba/pdf/publikacije/pdf>

<sup>48</sup> The World Health Organization warns that the goal is to achieve over 95 percent immunization of the population in one community. The latest UNICEF survey on immunization in BiH shows that 83% of surveyed citizens regularly vaccinate their children (82% at the level of Republika Srpska), and that they have the greatest trust in doctors as reliable sources of information about vaccines. <https://bih.ureport.in/story/347/> Accessed on: June 1, 2020.

<sup>49</sup> UNICEF (2020); Situational analysis of the position of children in BiH; Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/bih/media/4966/file/Situaciona%20analiza%20o%20polo%C5%BEaju%20djece%20u%20Bosni%20i%20Hercegovini.pdf> Accessed on: June 1, 2020.

<sup>50</sup> RS MoHSP (2016); Early Childhood Development Program of Republika Srpska 2016-2020

possible to do that in the health care institutions in the Republika Srpska or in other health care institutions with which the Health Insurance Fund has signed contracts. The activities of the Fund are mostly focused on the most severe cases of children's diseases, as well as on children suffering from rare diseases.

A significant part of protection and support services intended for children is provided through the system of social, family and child protection. At the level of the RS, this area is uniformly regulated, and the key institution of that system is the Social Welfare Center, which, in the founding sense, is under the jurisdiction of the local self-administration unit, but with uniform legislation at the Entity level. The Law on Social Protection, the Family Law and the Law on Child Protection<sup>51</sup> stipulate the legal framework regulating the area of operation of the social welfare centers. In addition to these three key laws, the social welfare centers perform a significant part of the tasks assigned to them by other laws, such as: the Law on the Protection of Minors in Criminal Proceedings, the Law on the Protection of Victims of Domestic Violence, etc.

The easiest way to monitor the operation of the social, family and child protection system in the Republika Srpska is through indicators of beneficiaries of rights and services in social protection institutions.

According to the data of the RS Institute of Statistics<sup>52</sup> the number of minors (children) beneficiaries of social protection services and measures is rapidly declining. At the beginning of 2014, this number was 75,173, and at the beginning of 2018 it was 51,580, which is a decrease by 31.4%! The highest level of decrease occurred in the category "Persons with socially unacceptable behavior"<sup>53</sup> (43.4%) and "Vulnerable due to family situation"<sup>54</sup> (34.5%), while there was an increase in the number of minors who are classified in the group "Persons with mental and physical development disorders" (10.9%).<sup>55</sup> The reasons for the reduction in the number of beneficiaries should not be sought in the improvement of the social security situation, but rather in the non-synchronization of data collection by various subjects of protection, and professionals have already reacted to this several times.

According to the data of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the largest number of minors beneficiaries of rights, measures and services of social welfare centers in 2018 was in the category of children beneficiaries of the right to another person's assistance and care allowance (1,538) and the right to personal disability allowance (1,048). The number of children placed under guardianship was 410; number of children without parental care was

---

<sup>51</sup> The Law on Amendments to the Law on Child Protection (Official Gazette of the RS, 107/19) introduces a new organization of the Public Fund for Child Protection of the RS, which abolishes the competence of social welfare centers in the process of exercising the right to child protection.

<sup>52</sup> RS IoS (2019); Social Protection Bulletin; Available at:

[https://www.rzs.rs.ba/static/uploads/bilteni/socijalna\\_zastita/Bilten\\_Socijalna\\_Zastita\\_2019\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.rzs.rs.ba/static/uploads/bilteni/socijalna_zastita/Bilten_Socijalna_Zastita_2019_WEB.pdf)

Accessed on: May 15, 2020.

<sup>53</sup> This group includes minors prone to vagrancy, begging, prostitution, committing crimes, alcohol and drug use.

<sup>54</sup> This group includes children: without both parents, parents prevented from performing parental duties, parents deprived of parental rights, parents who do not have sufficient income, parents who neglect or abuse their children, educationally neglected and mistreated children.

<sup>55</sup> The trends in the numbers of certain categories of children in social protection and support systems, provided there is consistency in the methodology of monitoring and reporting, are stemming from two possible reasons: one is related to improving the systemic response to existing problems and the other may indicate the existence of gray areas, i.e. lack of recognition of real problems that children face (especially the data on the number of children at risk due to family situation).

381; number of children in foster families was 239; the number of children entrusted by a court decision and a decision of the guardianship authority was 1378; number of adopted children was 11; number of children victims of domestic violence was 327; number of children to whom the educational measures were imposed was 269; number of minors with antisocial behaviors registered in social welfare centers was 557.<sup>56</sup>

Benefits for child protection in the Republika Srpska are harmonized through the Child Protection Public Fund, and in all forms they are equal (although insufficient) for all children. The child allowance in the RS for 2020, for the second and fourth child is BAM 40.50, and for the third BAM 81, if the families are below the material threshold. The right to child allowance for children with disabilities, with the findings and opinion of the social welfare center expert commissions, is exercised regardless of the material census, the value of movable property, and regardless of the order of birth, and the amount is BAM 103.50. The number of children who are entitled to child allowance on a monthly basis is 16,698 (April 2020)<sup>57</sup>, which is almost by half less than in 2014, as evidenced by the data on the annual budget earmarked for this purpose. The number of children who were covered by the right to child allowance in 2014 was 31,928, and the annual budget of the Fund for financing this right amounted to BAM 20,791,020.00, which is seven million more than the budget for child allowance in 2020.<sup>58</sup> The reasons for such a drastic reduction in the number of children who use this right should be sought, first of all, in the smaller absolute number of children in the total population of Republika Srpska, but also in legal changes that have tightened the criteria for exercising the right. Also, the number of beneficiaries is affected by the still unresolved problem of harmonization of existing legal provisions with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Namely, the Child Protection Law of the Republika Srpska restricts the use of this right for children under the age of 15, although the Convention defines that a child should be considered a person under the age of 18, and thus should enjoy all legal rights.<sup>59</sup>

Violence is one of the greatest risks for direct social exclusion of children. Violence against children most often occurs in the family and school, places where the child spends most of its life. The wide presence and relatively easy availability of new information and communication tools has at the same time opened up a number of issues related to the problem of endangering safety and cases of violence against children. The most common forms of so-called electronic violence refer to endangering the child's right to privacy by disclosing personal data and revealing personal and family circumstances, as well as harassment, insults, sending inappropriate, threatening and offensive messages, inciting hatred and violence, recruitment by various socially unacceptable groups that may be harmful and dangerous to the child. The traumas that children experience in these situations leave lasting consequences on the future development of the child, which have a significant impact on the enhancement of already present processes of social exclusion.

---

<sup>56</sup> RS MoHSP (2019); Bulletin of social, family and child protection for 2018; Available at: <https://www.vladars.net/sr-SP-Cyrl/Vlada/Ministarstva/MZSZ/dokumenti/Documents/Bilten%20srpski.pdf> Accessed on: May 20, 2020.

<sup>57</sup> See: <https://www.jfdz.org/sr/page/16/dodatak-na-djetsu> Accessed on: May 2020.

<sup>58</sup> RS MoHSP (2015) Bulletin of social, family and child protection; Available at: [https://www.vladars.net/sr-SP-Cyrl/Vlada/Ministarstva/MZSZ/socijalna\\_zastita/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.vladars.net/sr-SP-Cyrl/Vlada/Ministarstva/MZSZ/socijalna_zastita/Pages/default.aspx) Accessed on: May 2020.

<sup>59</sup> The RS Law on Child Protection (Official Gazette of the RS, no. 114/17, 122/18 and 107/19) does not provide definition of a child, but Article 17 restricts the use of the right to child allowance until the age of 15. Exceptions are children with disabilities, children in foster care and financially disadvantaged families.

The problems of children victims of domestic violence have not yet reached the same level of social significance as the cases of violence against women. However, one should not forget the facts that support the statement that domestic violence, in addition to peer violence, is the greatest danger to the overall psychosocial development of the child.

#### **Report on the application of the Protocol for action in cases of violence, abuse or neglect of children for 2018**

- In the Republika Srpska, 778 children were victims in a total of 899 registered cases of various forms of violence.
- The largest number of children victims of violence is aged 10 to 14, a total of 264 or 34%. 199 or 25.5% children aged 5 to 9, 175 or 22.5% children aged 15 to 18, and 140 or 18% children aged 0-4 years were registered as victims of some form of violence.
- According to the data of the Ministry of the Interior, there is an increase in the number of children victims of domestic violence. Namely, out of 1257 registered victims of domestic violence in 2018, there were 134 children victims of violence or 11%, compared to 2017 when this percentage was 8.5%.

\* Data taken from Annual Report of the Ombudsmen for children in RS. Available at: <http://www.djeca.rs.ba/uploaded/Godisnji%20izvjestaj%202019%20lat..pdf> Accessed on: September 2020.

According to the results of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2011-2012 (MICS), 55% of children in BiH, aged 2 to 14, were subjected to some form of violent discipline, while 40% of children suffered physical punishment and 42% psychological aggression<sup>60</sup>. BiH is among the countries with the highest exposure of children to sexual violence and contact sexual abuse in the region. Approximately 19% of children aged 11 to 16 stated that they had been exposed to sexual contact during their lifetime, while 10% of them stated that they had been exposed to sexual violence during their lifetime.<sup>61</sup>

The real youth unemployment rate in the Republika Srpska (15-24 years) in 2016 was 52.3%, while the general unemployment rate was 20.5%, which indicates the inability of young people to enter the labor market.<sup>62</sup>

When comparing the application of active employment measures in the entities, in terms of their impact on youth employment, the following indicators may be observed: in 2017, a total of BAM 132,751,315 was spent for active and passive employment measures in BiH; BAM 36,000,000 in FBiH, BAM 5,000,000 in RS, and BAM 880,000 in BD were allocated for the measures that should have an impact on youth employment. For start-up entrepreneurship, which is mostly intended for young people, BAM 15,000,000 was allocated in FBiH, BAM 3,600,000 in RS, and BAM 500,000 in BD.<sup>63</sup> These measures do not

<sup>60</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--/) Accessed on: May 1, 2020.

<sup>61</sup> Balkan epidemiological study on child abuse and neglect (BECAN), 2012; Available at: [https://bib.irb.hr/datoteka/596233.Rezultati\\_epidemiolo\\_kog\\_istraivanja\\_nasilja\\_nad\\_djecom\\_u\\_obitelji.pdf](https://bib.irb.hr/datoteka/596233.Rezultati_epidemiolo_kog_istraivanja_nasilja_nad_djecom_u_obitelji.pdf) Accessed on: May 15, 2020.

<sup>62</sup> Pucar, S. (2017); Labor market analysis and projections in RS, RS Union of Employers' Associations; Available at: <http://unijauprs.org/dokumenti/analiza.pdf>

<sup>63</sup> DEP (2017); Social Inclusion Report for 2017; Available at: [www.dep.gov.ba](http://www.dep.gov.ba). Accessed on: August 2020.

guarantee the sustainability of the started businesses, hence, there is a rationale to pose a question about the effectiveness of these interventions in the process of youth employment.

The above data may lead to a conclusion that the state of social exclusion of children, youth and families with children is caused by many social problems/risks and processes, such as: material deprivation of family members, health and developmental problems of children, lack of social security for youth, lack of institutional support services, undefined population policy, etc.

#### 3.4.2. Poverty and assistance to poor

Poverty is a social problem that is very visible on both the individual and the general social level. For an individual and his family, poverty is recognized as a lack of basic material means (conditions) for life, and for society, it is the economic inability of the state to provide security and conditions for a dignified life with its systems of social action.

In the first years of the existence of the Republika Srpska, the risk of poverty was determined by the consequences of war destruction and exile. Later, poverty was caused by the consequences of transition processes and high unemployment. It should be emphasized that BiH, and thus the Republika Srpska throughout the history, has constantly struggled with the problems of economic underdevelopment and its consequences on people's lives, so that poverty issues have become an integral part of all development policies to date. Today, poverty is the result of a very low level of utilization of development potentials and unequal distribution of social income.

Poverty is not an unambiguous phenomenon. It changes depending on changes in internal socio-economic relations, external influences, extraordinary (emergency) situations, but also on the approaches applied in anti-poverty policies.

The official statistics in BiH measure poverty by determining the relative poverty line, defined by an amount equal to 60% of the median equivalent consumption of the population. In simple terms, anyone below 60% of the average consumption in a country is relatively poor. The UN absolute poverty line in terms of nutrition is USD 1.5 per day and is defined as extreme poverty appropriate for underdeveloped countries, and BiH falls into that category.

### 1. Absolute poverty in RS based on data from the Extended Household Budget Survey (EHBS) conducted in BiH in 2015

#### Poverty line

- The absolute poverty line at the RS level for 2015 was BAM 228 per household member per month. The absolute poverty line was calculated in a way that the absolute poverty line from 2007, which amounted to BAM 201, was updated for inflation in the period 2007-2015 using data on the growth of the consumer price index in BiH.

#### Absolutely poor

- Absolutely poor people are people who are unable to meet the minimum of their non-nutrition needs (and as such should be distinguished from extremely poor people who by definition are not able to meet the minimum of their nutritional needs).
- In the RS in 2015, 138 thousand inhabitants or about 14% of the population lived in absolute poverty or almost every seventh inhabitant was absolutely poor (EHBS 2015 estimates that

According to the BHAS, the relative poverty rate in BiH was 16.9% in 2015, i.e. 1 percentage point lower than in 2011. The relative poverty threshold for a one-member household was BAM 389.26 (60% of the median equivalent consumption), and in 2015, over 500,000 inhabitants in BiH were relatively poor. The richest fifth spent 4.9 times more than the poorest fifth.<sup>64</sup>

Based on the methodology for absolute poverty calculation (BHAS EUROSTAT from 2007, the last year when it was calculated) it was found that 23.4% of the population in 2011 was living below the absolute poverty line (BAM 238 per adult in line with 2007 prices).<sup>65</sup>

The data of the world agencies dealing with development and the statements of their officials show that the situation in BiH and the Republika Srpska is very disturbing. In their reports, they rank BiH among the least developed countries in Europe, where the issue of poverty is one of the most important issues of overall economic and social development.

According to the UNDP, at the end of 2019, approximately 18% of the population in BiH lives below the poverty line (60 percent of the average income), and one third faces uncertainty, living above the poverty line, with the potential risk of falling below it.<sup>66</sup>

There is no official monitoring of poverty trends in the Republika Srpska. Poverty data are based on monitoring the results of the Household Budget Survey. The assessment of poverty in the Republika Srpska is based on the relative poverty line of the Republika Srpska, which in 2015 amounted to BAM 362.34. Compared to 2011, the relative poverty line is lower by BAM 18.75. The relative poverty rate of the population in the Republika Srpska in 2015 was 12.8% (individuals) and 13.9% (households), and compared to 2011 it was lower by 1.6%. According to the same source, in the Republika Srpska in 2015, there were 49,805 households or 126,043 inhabitants living below the relative poverty line. The poverty gap<sup>67</sup> in the Republika Srpska in 2015 was 22.1% and compared to 2011 it was lower by 0.9 percentage points.<sup>68</sup>

#### Indicators of absolute poverty in the RS

|                            | 2007    | 2011    | 2015   |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|--------|
| Total persons *            | 1166173 | 1060290 | 985584 |
| Poor persons               | 195802  | 167557  | 138212 |
| Percentage of poor persons | 16.8    | 15.8    | 14.0   |
| Poverty gap                | 0.04    | 0.04    | 0.03   |
| Square poverty gap         | 0.02    | 0.02    | 0.01   |
| Poverty deficit            | 0.24    | 0.25    | 0.21   |

\* The estimate of the present population in the RS according to HBS/EHBS for a given year which differs from the official estimate of the number of population in the RS in line with the 2013 Census

- In the RS in the period 2007-2015 there was a slight decline in absolute poverty, which is indicated by a slight decrease in all three key indicators of absolute poverty: poverty rate, poverty gap and square poverty gap.

averages, beyond today: Inequalities in human development in the 21<sup>st</sup> century"; Available at:

[https://www.ba.undp.org/content/bosnia\\_and\\_herzegovina/bs/home/presscenter/vijesti/2019/beyondincom ebeyondaveragesbeyondtoday.html](https://www.ba.undp.org/content/bosnia_and_herzegovina/bs/home/presscenter/vijesti/2019/beyondincom ebeyondaveragesbeyondtoday.html) Accessed on: March 25, 2020

<sup>67</sup> The poverty gap shows how much income should be transferred to the poor population to raise household income to the poverty line, but not to change the practice of providing employment.

<sup>68</sup> RS Institute of Statistics (2017); Household Budget Survey – Bulletin; Available at:

[https://www.rzs.rs.ba/static/uploads/ankete/potrosnja\\_domacinstava/Bilten\\_Anketa\\_O\\_Potrosnji\\_Domacinstava\\_2018\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.rzs.rs.ba/static/uploads/ankete/potrosnja_domacinstava/Bilten_Anketa_O_Potrosnji_Domacinstava_2018_WEB.pdf) Accessed on: May 2020.

## Who are the poor in the Republika Srpska?

It is not easy to get the answer to that question. Namely, in the Republika Srpska there is no single methodology for poverty monitoring, so it is difficult to identify the social structure of those who are the most affected by this problem.

According to the results of the survey, in the Republika Srpska, relative poverty affects both single-member households ("singles") (19.3%) and multi-member families (13.0%). Poverty is more prevalent: in rural areas (16.9%); among women (18.6%); persons without formal education (29.6%); among the elderly, 65 years old (22.7%); among single parents (15.0%) and older married couples without children (14.3%). Also, more vulnerable to poverty are the persons incapable to work (39.8%), unemployed persons seeking first employment (21.1%) pensioners (12.8%) and housewives (15.5%). The worrying fact is that those categories of the population who do not have additional risks are also affected by the risk of poverty, such as: full-time employees (7.2%), middle-aged people (10.5%) and married couples with one (8.3%) and two children 9.9%).<sup>69</sup> A significant number of children in the Republika Srpska are affected by relative poverty. According to UNICEF analyzes, the relative child poverty rate in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2011 was 19.7% and it is constantly increasing. Children in poverty are almost twice likely to experience material deprivation compared to the average population.<sup>70</sup>

### Absolute poverty of vulnerable groups in the RS in 2015 according to the data of EHBS 2015

- The absolute poverty rate of children aged 0-14 in the RS is 24% and is about 10 percentage points higher than the average absolute poverty rate for the RS.
- The absolute poverty rate of people aged 65 and over is 11% and is 3 percentage points lower than the average absolute poverty rate for the RS.
- The poverty rate of persons living in households with 5 or more members is 25% and is 11 percentage points higher than the average absolute poverty rate for the RS.
- The absolute poverty rate of young unemployed persons is 19% and is 5 percentage points higher than the average absolute poverty rate for the RS.
- The absolute poverty rate of persons without completed primary school is 23% and is 9 percentage points higher than the average absolute poverty rate for the RS.
- The absolute poverty rate of persons incapable to work is 21% and is 7 percentage points higher than the average absolute poverty rate for the RS.
- The absolute poverty rate of persons living in female-headed households is 15% and is 1 percentage point higher than the average absolute poverty rate for the RS.

The poverty rate in BiH is the highest among the unemployed population. However, a significant part of the poor population consists of so-called working poor. Although poverty is lower compared to the self-employed, pensioners and the unemployed, the presence of the poor in the employed population indicates that the quality of jobs and productivity levels are low and that the necessary skills and knowledge are lacking since education levels correlate to a significant degree with poverty risk.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

<sup>70</sup> See: UNICEF (2014) Child Poverty and Deprivation in BiH; Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/bih/media/401/file/Publikacija%20Dje%20C4%8Dije%20siroma%20A1tvo%20i%20uskr%20a%20C4%87enost%20u%20Bosni%20i%20Hercegovini.pdf> Accessed on: September 2020

The state's attitude towards poverty and the needs of poor is recognized through active anti-poverty policies. In the Republika Srpska, there is no uniform policy to fight poverty, but there are number of systemic measures and activities aimed at helping and supporting the poor. Unfortunately, the results of these measures are very modest because they are fragmented and "scattered" in different systems of social action. Also, there is no institution in the RS to deal with issues of the poor, research and systematic planning of measures against poverty.

#### **Absolute poverty and employment in the RS**

- Employed persons make 27% or around every fourth person in the RS. The absolute poverty rate of employed persons in the RS is 11%, which is only 3 percentage points less than the average absolute poverty rate in the RS, which is 14%. In other words, every ninth full-time employee in the RS is absolutely poor. Permanently employed absolutely poor people in RS make 22% or every fourth absolutely poor person in the RS.
- Unemployed persons who previously had job make 6% of the RS population and unemployed persons seeking first employment make 7% of the RS population. The rate of the absolutely poor in the unemployed population in the RS who already had a job is 15%, while among the unemployed who are seeking first employment it is 18%. Absolutely poor unemployed people who already had a job make 7% of all absolutely poor in the RS while absolutely poor people who are seeking first employment make 10% of all absolutely poor in the RS.
- At the RS level, the poorest are the incapable of work, with 21% or one in five being absolutely poor.

The system of social, family and child protection in its legal definition has the most evident responsibility to directly deal with poverty and provide direct assistance and support to poor people and poor families. Limited resources in relation to the needs make this system inefficient in terms of supporting the poor and families and reducing poverty. The Law on Social Protection clearly identifies the "impossibility of meeting basic living needs" as one of the main causes for an individual and a family to get into the state of social need and require state intervention.<sup>71</sup> Although the Law on Social Protection recognizes poverty exclusively as extreme material deprivation, it is also seen as a situation in which the state has the obligation to provide various types of profession and science-based social welfare services.

In addition to the Law on Social Protection, poverty issues are indirectly addressed by other legal documents that regulate the areas of: protection of refugees and displaced persons, exercising the rights of persons with disabilities, families of deceased and missing, unemployed, pensioners, victims of domestic violence and others. The laws regulating these areas treat the situation of poverty and destitution as one of the additional criteria for the realization of special benefits in the process of exercising status rights. In addition, the state of poverty is taken into account when exercising the rights and benefits in other systems of social action whose interest is related to other areas such as: education, health, housing, economic activities, etc.

---

<sup>71</sup> Article 2 of this Law defines the state of social need as "a state in which a person needs help to overcome social and other difficulties and create conditions to meet the basic living needs, if these needs cannot be met in other social security systems."

The institutions that bear the greatest burden of social protection of the poor in the Republika Srpska are the social welfare centers and institutions for the accommodation of beneficiaries. While accommodation institutions deal with the residual care of beneficiaries (not exclusively the poor), the social welfare centers carry out planned, organizational and operational activities for the care of the socially vulnerable population, among which the poor are one of the priority categories.

Based on the initial analyzes done since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, it can be concluded that the poverty situation will be even more difficult. The World Bank experts estimate that in the first months of the pandemic, extreme poverty globally will increase dramatically by about 49 million people due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which will be the first time since the great financial crisis of 1998.<sup>72</sup> The same development of events is also expected in BiH. Decline of orders from abroad due to health protection measures and limited movement of people in the world will lead to a reduction of product orders and production, and inevitably will lead to reduction of employment and layoffs, and consequently to increase of unemployment and will put a significant number of families in a state of material uncertainty. If such a situation persists for several months, the poverty situation in the Republika Srpska will significantly worsen, and the state will have to adopt urgent economic recovery measures, but also measures of direct assistance to the most socially endangered groups, which were absent in the first months of the crisis.

#### 3.4.3. Discrimination of persons with disabilities

People with disabilities are the most socially vulnerable group of the population and are constantly at risk of discrimination on various grounds. Any discrimination brings the risk of social exclusion, so the elimination of all forms of discrimination through the provision of equal opportunities for all is the essence of the social inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Access to community life, adequate housing, sensitive health care, labor market, public services, are just some of the areas in which the goals of social inclusion of persons with disabilities can be achieved. Creating a positive environment, with a continuous promotion of the abilities of people with disabilities through positive life examples, reduction of stigmatized attitudes in various ways, with the aim of reducing prejudice and raising awareness of human rights deprivation of these persons, together with equal opportunities for all, are essential for the social inclusion of all persons with disabilities.

In the Republika Srpska, it is difficult to determine the actual number of persons with disabilities because there is no single registration system and registry of persons with disabilities. According to the results of the 2013 census, it is estimated that in the Republika Srpska there was a total of 102,262 persons with disabilities or 8.7% of the total population, which is close to the UN estimate that there are about 10% of persons with disabilities in the world population.<sup>73</sup>

The real number of persons with disabilities can be indirectly determined through the number of beneficiaries of certain rights and allowances that they receive in different systems of social action.

---

<sup>72</sup> <https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/impact-covid-19-coronavirus-global-poverty-why-sub-saharan-africa-might-be-region-hardest>

<sup>73</sup> RS IoS. (2017); Census results; Available at:

[https://www.rzs.rs.ba/static/uploads/bilteni/popis/gradovi\\_opstine\\_naseljena\\_mjesta/Rezultati\\_Popisa\\_2013\\_Gradovi\\_Opstine\\_Naseljena\\_Mjesta\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.rzs.rs.ba/static/uploads/bilteni/popis/gradovi_opstine_naseljena_mjesta/Rezultati_Popisa_2013_Gradovi_Opstine_Naseljena_Mjesta_WEB.pdf) Accessed on: July 2020.

According to the statistics for 2018 of the RS Institute of Statistics, 201,354 adults with disabilities were beneficiaries of social protection rights and services. However, the actual number of users is significantly lower because this number includes the persons who are beneficiaries of disabilities rights on several bases and in several systems. Out of the total number of persons with disabilities, according to the latest data of the RS Institute of Statistics for 2018 were, the largest number belongs to the category of persons with physical disabilities and chronic diseases i.e. 9,665, and this is an increase of about 77% compared to 2013 when there were 5,538.<sup>74</sup> According to the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare data, the right to personal disability benefit<sup>75</sup> in 2018 was exercised by 4,192 persons (3,153 adults and 1,039 minors), and the right to allowance for assistance and care of another person in 2018 was exercised by 26,394 persons (minors and adults), which is almost ten thousand more than in 2013, when a new method of assessment was established in line with the new Law on Social Protection from 2012, and when there were 17,841 beneficiaries of this right. The data from the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund of the Republika Srpska show that in the middle of 2020 there were 37,504 beneficiaries of the right to disability pension, which is 13.96% of the total number of beneficiaries of the right to pension<sup>76</sup>. The data from the Government of the Republika Srpska at the end of 2019 indicate that the number of beneficiaries of personal disability benefits under the Law on the Rights of Veterans, War Invalids and Families of Killed Veterans of the Defensive-Patriotic War was 31,591, and under the Law on Protection of Civilian Victims of War another 1,195 people.<sup>77</sup> A total of 13,717 adults and 12,926 minors used some of the medical devices, and in the period from 2006 to 2016, the number of employed persons with disabilities reached 2,027.<sup>78</sup>

In 2010, Bosnia and Herzegovina ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. By committing to this Convention, BiH, and thus the Republika Srpska, has undertaken the obligation to implement it and report regularly to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Also, a commitment has been made to ensure equality and full enjoyment and realization of all human rights for all citizens, as well as the right to protection from discrimination on any grounds, including disability. However, the situation in reality is quite different.

In Republika Srpska, at the operational level, there is no uniform approach to disability policy. Such a situation produces a different practice of international standards implementation in this area, which results in discrimination and violation of the rights of persons with disabilities. In an attempt to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, the

---

<sup>74</sup> See RS IoS; (2019). Social Protection; Statistical Bulletin; Available at:

[https://www.rzs.rs.ba/static/uploads/bilteni/socijalna\\_zastita/Bilten\\_Socijalna\\_Zastita\\_2019\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.rzs.rs.ba/static/uploads/bilteni/socijalna_zastita/Bilten_Socijalna_Zastita_2019_WEB.pdf)

Accessed on: July 2020.

<sup>75</sup> The right to personal disability allowance for the so-called civilian invalids in the Republika Srpska was introduced in mid-2018 by a Government Decision, and has been recognized as the right in the law since the beginning of 2019, with the amendments to the existing law.

<sup>76</sup> Data taken from the official Internet site of the RS Pension and Disability Insurance Fund;

<http://www.fondpiors.org/statisticki-bilteni/statisticki-bilteni-2020/> Accessed on: July 2020.

<sup>77</sup> Data taken from the annual reports of the line ministry used for the preparation of government decisions adopted at the 55th session of the Government of the RS, dated 23 January 2020. Available at: <http://www.vladars.net/sr-SP-Cyrl/Vlada/media/vijesti/Pages/odrzana-55-sjednica-vlade-republike-srpske.aspx> Accessed on: July 2020.

<sup>78</sup> Data taken from the "Strategy for Improving the Social Position of Persons with Disabilities in the RS for the period 2017 - 2016." Available at: <https://e-vijecenarodars.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Prijedlog-strategije-unapredjenja-dr-polozaja-lica-sa-invaliditetom-u-RS-2017-do-2026-1.pdf> Accessed on: July 2020.

institutions of the Republika Srpska have adopted a number of documents and measures aimed at improving their social position. Strategies have been adopted, new laws have been enacted, new rights have been recognized, cash benefits have been increased, etc.<sup>79</sup> However, forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities are still present.

The most obvious example of discrimination against persons with disabilities occurs at the legislative level. Different legal provisions, different criteria and different procedures for exercising rights, depending on the system in which rights are exercised, lead to systemic discrimination against persons with disabilities. Depending on which system they "belong" to, a person with a disability with the same or similar degree and type of impairment (developmental problem) has different rights, receives different amounts of cash benefits, different criteria are applied, and undergoes different procedures and treatments. Thus, for example, persons with disabilities who exercise their rights on the basis of war veteran protection have a greater choice of rights and services, and their income is significantly higher than is the case with the so-called civilian invalids who are the beneficiaries of the social protection system.

The discrimination also exists among different groups of people with disabilities. People with physical disabilities belong to the most visible group of people with disabilities, unlike people with mental, intellectual and sensory impairments, who belong to less visible groups, and due to that their needs are more socially neglected. The population of disabled workers is discriminated against on the basis of denial of the right to compensation for bodily injury and inability to use the right to employment under special conditions because they can hardly achieve the criterion of 70% of disability regulated by the Law on Professional Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled People.

The discrimination against persons with disabilities is also present in the field of employment, primarily in terms of employers in the public sector who are not undertaking the necessary activities, established by the Law on Professional Rehabilitation, Training and Employment of Persons with Disabilities, to raise the existing low employment quota for persons with disabilities and thus prove the sensitivity, social responsibility and respect for the minimum level of legal obligation.

The discrimination also occurs on the basis of the application of the so-called a medical disability assessment model that focuses on the diagnosis of the disease rather than the condition and degree of functional ability. In this way, medical diagnosis becomes a key norm for exercising status rights, which leads to discrimination against persons with disabilities based on their needs.<sup>80</sup>

The problem of systemic nature, which also affects the inconsistency of treatment of persons with disabilities, stems from the lack of a uniform model for assessing the developmental problems of children that can respond to the needs of different support systems. Hence, the education system uses a model of assessment of the social protection

---

<sup>79</sup> In the period from 2009 to 2019, the Government of the RS adopted several key documents that seek to improve the social position of persons with disabilities, namely: Disability Policy, Strategy for Improving the Social Position of Persons with Disabilities, Law on Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities, the Law on the Rights of Veterans, War Invalids and Families of Killed Veterans of the Defensive-Patriotic War of the Republika Srpska and the Law on Social Protection.

<sup>80</sup> Amendments to the Law on Social Protection from 2019 restored the role and importance of medical diagnosis in the exercise of certain rights and services (the right to personal disability benefits, the right to allowance for assistance and care of another person, etc.)

system, which, despite its improvement, cannot adequately respond to the requirements, and the needs of early growth and development of preschool and school children with disabilities.<sup>81</sup>

Discrimination is also present in financial terms. The financial amounts of material benefits for the same rights differ even for several times. Thus, for example, the amount for the right to assistance and care of another person in veteran-disabled protection in 2019 ranged from BAM 232 to BAM 696, and for the same right non-war invalids (civilian) would receive the amount from BAM 90 to BAM 180.

#### **Absolute poverty and persons incapable to work in the RS**

- Persons incapable to work make approximately 3% of the population in the RS.
- The absolute poverty rate for the persons incapable to work in the RS is 21%.
- Absolutely poor persons incapable to work in the RS make 5% of all absolutely poor persons in the RS.

According to the Strategy for Improving the Social Position of Persons with Disabilities 2017-2026, the activities aimed at raising the quality of life of persons with disabilities should be realized in all spheres: public and political life; economic independence, employment and professional rehabilitation; social protection, social security and support; health care; education; cultural, religious and family life; sports and recreation, and in the field of self-organization.

In the Republika Srpska, the employment of persons with disabilities is regulated under special conditions by the Law on Professional Rehabilitation, Training and Employment of Disabled Persons, adopted in 2004. The same Law stipulates the establishment of the Fund for Professional Rehabilitation and Employment of the Disabled, through which employment measures and obligations of economic entities to the Fund are implemented.

The lack of a unified system of registration and the registry, a single method of assessing the degree of disability, the lack of a central institution to deal with disability policy, abandonment of the social model of needs assessment, unequal financial benefits, lack of consistent application of legal provisions, etc. are just some of the systemic problems that contribute to the discrimination of persons with disabilities in public and private life.

#### **3.4.4. The elderly - the struggle for survival**

Elderly people are excluded on several grounds, which makes them one of the most socially vulnerable groups. Their life situation is conditioned primarily by their material and health condition. Reduced working capacity, impaired health, material deprivation and dependence on family and intergenerational solidarity are the basic determinants of the position of the elderly in a society, and at the same time, the reasons for their exclusion from a society.

---

<sup>81</sup> The Law on Social Protection of the RS from 2012 introduced a new way of assessing the developmental problems of children based on the approach to developmental needs (Rulebook on the assessment of needs and guidance of children and youth with disabilities).

The number of elderly people in the Republika Srpska is increasing from year to year. The constant increase in the share of the elderly in the total population leads to the aging population process that has taken alarming forms in the Republika Srpska. According to the 2013 Census, the number of people over 65 in BiH was 501,196 or 14.2%, and in the Republika Srpska it was 200,389 or 17%, making it one of the oldest European societies<sup>82</sup>.

An increasing number of older people require greater involvement of society in their care. In that sense, the Republika Srpska started in 2011 the drafting of a policy in which the strategic directions for the development of the social support system for the elderly were defined in line with the principles of the Madrid Action Plan for Aging from 2002. The document Strategy for Improving the Position of the Elderly in the Republika Srpska, which was adopted for the period 2019-2028, defines nine key goals, namely: poverty reduction; improving social protection; improving access to public services; promotion of volunteer activities; raising awareness of the needs of the elderly; improving the health of the elderly; improvement of lifelong learning programs; prevention of violence against the elderly and protection and rescue of the elderly in emergency situations.

The key social security system that covers the risk of old age is the pension system, and it is going through the crisis in the Republika Srpska. Although pensions are paid to beneficiaries on a regular basis, the dynamics of filling the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund shows that this system faces a very risky operations period. An attempt to reform the pension system in 2010 failed, and the problems arising from the demographic and economic situation are only intensifying.

According to the data of the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund, the total number of beneficiaries of the right to a pension on December 31, 2019 was 267,479 beneficiaries (3,527 more than in 2018), while the number of insured persons was 315,887 (8,485 more than in 2018). Out of the total number of pensioners, 154,548 are beneficiaries of old-age pension, 74,775 are beneficiaries of family pension, 37,900 are beneficiaries of disability pension, and there were 256 beneficiaries using other rights allowances.<sup>83</sup>

Based on the data of the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund, it can be concluded that the largest number of elderly people are the beneficiaries of some of the rights within the pension and disability insurance system. Elderly persons over 65 years of age, who are not beneficiaries of the rights stemming from the Law on Pension and Disability Insurance, and are in a state of social need, were referred to exercise very restrictive rights in the domain of social protection, and their number at the end of 2018 was 30,931 or 23% of the total number of adult beneficiaries in the Republika Srpska.<sup>84</sup>

According to the data of the RS Institute of Statistics, in recent years there has been a sudden increase in the number of users of the homes for the elderly. At the end of 2014

---

<sup>82</sup> RS Sol (2017); Census of population, households and dwellings in the RS in 2013; Available at: [https://www.rzs.rs.ba/static/uploads/bilteni/stanovnistvo/Demografski\\_bilten\\_20\\_Drugo\\_Izmijenjeno\\_Izdanje\\_Web.pdf](https://www.rzs.rs.ba/static/uploads/bilteni/stanovnistvo/Demografski_bilten_20_Drugo_Izmijenjeno_Izdanje_Web.pdf) Accessed on: July 2020.

ASBIH; (2019) 2013 Population Census; Available at: [https://www.popis.gov.ba/popis2013/doc/Knjiga1/K1\\_H\\_E.pdf](https://www.popis.gov.ba/popis2013/doc/Knjiga1/K1_H_E.pdf) Accessed on: June 2020.

<sup>83</sup> RS PIO Fund (2020); Statistical bulletins; Available at: <http://www.fondpiors.org/statisticki-bilteni/> Accessed on: July 2020.

<sup>84</sup> RS IoS (2019); Social Protection Bulletin; Available at: [https://www.rzs.rs.ba/static/uploads/bilteni/socijalna\\_zastita/Bilten\\_Socijalna\\_Zastita\\_2019\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.rzs.rs.ba/static/uploads/bilteni/socijalna_zastita/Bilten_Socijalna_Zastita_2019_WEB.pdf) Accessed on: July 2020.

there were 1,291 elderly people in institutional accommodation, and at the end of 2018 that number increased to 2,304.<sup>85</sup> However, a significant number of elderly people cannot be accommodated in a institutional home because they do not have sufficient funds for such private service, and they do not meet very restrictive criteria for the state assistance in line with the Law on Social Protection, therefore a number of elderly people remain at their homes under occasional social supervision of social services and with minimal state support.

Cash benefits for the elderly are very low. Only a small number of elderly people have income that guarantees them material security. There is a far higher number of those at risk of poverty. The elderly most affected by poverty are the beneficiaries of the lowest independent pension whose amounts from BAM 201.82 to BAM 322.97 and it cannot meet the basic needs for housing, food, clothing and medical treatment.<sup>86</sup>

#### **Absolute poverty of persons 65+ in the RS according to the data of EBHS 2015**

- People aged 65 and over make 22% of the total RS population.
- The absolute poverty rate of people aged 65 and over is 11% or every tenth person aged 65 and over is unable to meet the minimum non-nutrition needs.
- Absolutely poor people aged 65 and over make 17% or every sixth absolutely poor person in the RS.

Older people who are not beneficiaries of pension and disability insurance rights are in an even more difficult situation. Elderly beneficiaries of the Law on Social Protection must meet very restrictive conditions in order to receive cash benefits, which are extremely low.<sup>87</sup>

The very difficult situation of the elderly is additionally hampered by the lack of family and intergenerational solidarity. Although the society of the Republika Srpska has largely retained traditional family values, and does not easily renounce the obligation to take care of its elderly members, there have been more omnipresent processes on the scene lately that indicate the abandonment of traditional values in this area. The economic difficulties faced by young people, the inability to find employment and the emigration of young and working population are leading to an increasing number of older people who have to take care of themselves.

The current situation with the COVID 19 pandemic further complicates the position of the elderly in society. The impact of the virus on their health and the consequences it causes puts older people in front of special life challenges, and the restrictions imposed on them by the authorities have put them in a particularly difficult life situation. Restriction of social contacts, prohibition to go out, introduction of special regimes for going out leads to social ghettoization of the elderly, which will cause unforeseeable consequences for their overall position in society.

---

<sup>85</sup> Ibid.

<sup>86</sup> The amounts refer to the month of January 2020; Ibid

<sup>87</sup> According to the Law on Social Protection, persons who meet the following cumulative conditions have the right to continuous financial assistance: to be incapable of work, to have no property (movable and immovable) and to have no immediate family members. Benefits amounts range from 10% to 20% of the average net salary, depending on the number of members of the joint household. In January 2020, that amount was: for a one-member household BAM 93.9, and for a five-member household BAM 187.8.

### 3.4.5. Women and gender inequality

Women in BiH and the Republika Srpska are unequal and socially excluded on several grounds, which is manifested in the public and private spheres of life as: political marginalization, educational inferiority, economic vulnerability, labor exploitation and family inequality.

According to the research of the Gender Center of the Government of the Republika Srpska<sup>88</sup>, gender inequalities are manifested in all phases of life. Biological gender difference and social values have influenced the creation and maintenance of gender segregation between men and women from early childhood until late adulthood. It begins with parental incentives for the development of different skills in boys and girls and ends with the shaping of the final gender role of women and men by the community. Gender inequality in practice is largely due to the permeation of traditional values in a society where the dominant patriarchal pattern of behavior continues to determine the gender gap and the practice of gender inequality. Current data from the Republika Srpska indicate the presence of gender difference and social segregation in the field of education, labor market, economic, political and family life.

According to the data from the 2013 Census, women make the largest number of people without any education. In the Republika Srpska, there are 58,651 of those persons aged 15 and over, of which 84% are women.<sup>89</sup> The gender gap in education is in favor of men in the older generations of adults, while in the younger generations it is in favor of women, which means that in older generations the presence of more educated men is higher than in younger generations dominated by more educated women.

The largest gender segregation is represented in the field of labor. Women are less represented among employed persons. According to the data obtained from the Labor Force Survey in 2019, out of a total of 349,000 employees in the Republika Srpska, 40% were women.<sup>90</sup> The unemployment rate for women in 2017 was 23.1% and it decreased by almost 7% compared to 2016.

According to the respondents of the first Gender Center survey<sup>91</sup>, women earn BAM 200 less per month than men for the same type and scope of work. There are significantly fewer women as beneficiaries of personal pensions, and there are more of them in the group of beneficiaries of family pensions, but the amounts of pensions are significantly smaller, which has an impact on the greater vulnerability of women to the risk of poverty. The discrepancy between responsibility and rights (benefits) in the realization of imposed

#### Absolute poverty rate and gender in the RS according to the data of BHS/EBHS

|        | 2007 | 2011 | 2015 |
|--------|------|------|------|
| Total  | 17%  | 16%  | 14%  |
| Male   | 17%  | 16%  | 14%  |
| Female | 16%  | 14%  | 15%  |

- The absolute poverty rate was slightly reduced in male-headed households in the period 2007-2015 and is following the average absolute poverty rate for the RS while the absolute poverty rate of female-headed households for the first time was above the average poverty rate for RS in 2015.

Babovic, S. and associates (2016). Ibid.

obligations in the family additionally puts women in an unequal position. Women are at higher risk of family poverty, and the most vulnerable group of women in that sense is the group of single mothers or women who are heads of the families.

The unequal position of women in the family can also be observed through data on gender-based violence and participation in public and political life. According to the data of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republika Srpska, in 2019, women make over 90% of victims of domestic violence, and men were perpetrators of violence in 88% of cases. Other institutions for protection and support to victims of domestic violence presented similar data.<sup>92</sup>

Due to the family roles imposed on them, women are less engaged in the activities of political parties and civil society organizations. At the 2018 elections, 6% less women were elected to all parliaments in BiH than in 2014. However, the situation in the Republika Srpska has improved in this regard. Compared to the general elections in 2014, in the 2018 elections, 2.03% more women were elected as delegates to the National Assembly than in 2014.<sup>93</sup>

#### 3.4.5. Exercising the rights of minority groups<sup>94</sup>

The Constitution of the Republika Srpska guarantees the exercise of rights and freedoms to all its citizens, regardless of differences on any grounds.<sup>95</sup> In this spirit, the Republika Srpska has built a framework of institutional action towards minority groups. However, the situation in practice often indicates inconsistencies in systemic solutions and omissions in the direct actions of state bodies towards those who are "different" and who belong to a minority.

The social exclusion of minority groups stems from attitudes towards their particularities that differ from the characteristics of the majority group. Cultural, social, racial, religious, national, health or sexual characteristics may be the basis for the social distancing of the majority from members of minority groups. Likewise, possessing or practicing "different" values, habits, and behaviors may produce a need for minority groups to be closed and isolated from the majority. Because they are a "minority", these groups have a higher risk of social exclusion in the majority community.

In democratic societies, the level of democracy is measured by the relationship of the "majority" to the "minority", because the "majority" makes laws, regulates relations in society and ensures the implementation of established rules. The issues of the position and exercise of the rights of minority groups are the cornerstones of a democratic society.

---

<sup>92</sup> Ministry of Youth, Family and Sports (2020); Information on the implementation of the General Protocol on the Procedure in Cases of Domestic Violence for 2019; Available at: <https://www.vladars.net/sr-SP-Cyrl/Vlada/Ministarstva/mpos/> Accessed on: July 2020.

<sup>93</sup> UNDP. (2019). Baseline study on barriers to women's political participation in BiH; Available at: [www.ba.undp.org](http://www.ba.undp.org) Accessed on: July 2020.

<sup>94</sup> The term "minority groups" means members of national minorities, returnees, members of the LGBT population, as well as members of other groups who are in the minority in relation to members of majority groups in one area, and related to differentiation on the basis of some social, cultural or other determinations of affiliation.

<sup>95</sup> Article 10 of the Constitution reads: "Citizens of the Republika Srpska are equal in freedoms, rights and duties, are equal before the law and enjoy the same legal protection regardless of race, sex, language, nationality, religion, social origin, birth, education, property status, political and other beliefs, social status or other personal characteristics."

Social exclusion of minority groups in a society is mostly recognized as the existence of obstacles and difficulties in exercising national, cultural, economic, social and religious rights.

BiH is a multinational and multiethnic community based on a two-entity and three-ethnic structure of legislative, executive and judicial authority, hence the definition of "national minorities" and their status is very complex. Due to the specific features of the constitutional and legal structure of BiH, the exercising of the national minorities rights is a key issue of democratic society.<sup>96</sup>

Who are the minorities in BiH?

The first group of "minorities" is the constituent peoples of BiH. Although in formal and legal terms the Serbs, the Bosniaks and the Croats are not minorities in BiH, they are often in the position of a "minority". Namely, the constituent peoples residing in municipalities, cantons or entities can be found in the situation of minorities if they are less than half of the majority group in that environment and if that fact determines the satisfaction of their needs and realization of national and ethnic rights. On this basis, 23% of the population in BiH is "constituent minorities", living in entities where the other group of peoples makes the majority of 75% of the population. Expressed in numbers, 384,000 Bosniaks, Croats and Serbs can be considered specific "constituent minorities".<sup>97</sup> In terms of content, the status of national minorities also includes citizens from the ranks of "others" whose definition is not clearly defined.

The second group of traditional minorities (there are 17 in BiH) is the Roma<sup>98</sup> and other national minorities, which include members of national communities whose states were formed after the disintegration of the common state, as well as national communities of states that once bordered with SFRY (except Croatia and Serbia).

The representatives of minority groups are also members of the LGBT population. LGBT people and their rights and freedoms are still on the margins of society. Due to widespread prejudices against this population, the coverage of well-established legal frameworks is systematically inhibited and the competent institutions often find excuses for their own lack of knowledge and insufficient engagement in equal treatment of LGBT people in the mentality and general attitudes that prevail in BiH.<sup>99</sup>

The minorities also represent any other groups of citizens that differ from the majority in individual characteristics, habits, behaviors and values, and which, within themselves, form

---

<sup>96</sup> There is no internationally accepted legal definition of national minorities. No European or general international legal instrument for the protection of minority rights is accompanied by its own definition of a (national) minority.

<sup>97</sup> AS BiH "Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in BiH 2013" - census results Available at: <https://www.popis.gov.ba/popis2013/knjige.php?id=2> Accessed on: July 2020.

<sup>98</sup> Regardless of the results of the census, which states that 13,000 Roma live in BiH, it is estimated that there are significantly more, about 70-80,000, but they declare themselves as members of the majority in their community, in most cases. From the point of view of social exclusion, the Roma are in the worst position in every aspect of social life compared to the "constituent" and other traditional minorities. See: SIF in BiH and IBHI. (2019). Towards the European Union - Key problems of social inclusion in BiH; Available at: [http://www.ibhi.ba/Documents/Publikacije/2019/Prvi\\_policy\\_papir\\_finalna\\_verzija.pdf](http://www.ibhi.ba/Documents/Publikacije/2019/Prvi_policy_papir_finalna_verzija.pdf) Accessed on: July 2020

<sup>99</sup> The views stem from a survey conducted by the Heinrich Boll Foundation and the CURE Foundation (2013). LGBT rights in BiH; Available at: [http://www.fondacijacure.org/files/Pravosudje\\_knjizni\\_blok.pdf](http://www.fondacijacure.org/files/Pravosudje_knjizni_blok.pdf) Accessed on: July 2020.

a coherent population group. Thus, minority groups may be adherents of various religious beliefs and communities that are not part of church organizations and official associations that bring together members of the "majority", such as Jehovah's Witnesses, Baptists, etc.

The number and types of minority groups in BiH are difficult to determine, but their noticeability is always clear because they "depart" from the majority in some ways, and therefore encounter problems in exercising their civilization attained rights and the rights guaranteed by laws.

The socio-economic position of minority groups is always more uncertain than that of the majority group. Uncertainty refers to the risks of poverty, legal discrimination, social isolation and social marginalization, all of which lead to a state of their social exclusion.

To change such a situation, it is necessary to fully implement the rights regulated by law, reduce the gap between what is proclaimed and implemented, and raise citizens' awareness on the importance of social cohesion in society.<sup>100</sup>

## 4 SOCIAL INCLUSION GOALS

The social inclusion goals stem from the set priorities of social development. The key priorities (priority issues) of social development are improving the quality of life and reducing social exclusion of marginalized groups in society, therefore, the determination of the strategic goals of social inclusion is conditioned by the intensity of problems faced by members of these groups in everyday situations in different areas of life. When analyzing the existing problems of marginalized groups, priority issues for improving their quality of life and exclusion from normal social flows, it is possible to single out six key strategic goals of social inclusion in the Republika Srpska, namely: improving the social position of children, youth and families with children; fight against poverty; equalization of opportunities and elimination of discrimination against persons with disabilities; safe old age; full gender equality and building a tolerant society for all.

### **Goal No. 1: Improving the social position of children, youth and families with children**

As illustrated by the situational analysis of social problems faced by the population in the Republika Srpska, children and youth are in a zone of high risk of social exclusion, on many grounds and in different areas of life. Their exclusion is complex because it implies the action of different factors that are mutually conditioned and often lead to negative synergistic effects. Likewise, improving the social position of children and youth is no less demanding. In addition to respecting the specifics of the position and role of children and youth in a society, it is necessary to include complete families. The family in the habitus of every child and young person is a key element of his/her determination, and at the same time, it is an inexhaustible resource for development. Precisely because of that, measures to improve the social position of children and youth must incorporate systemic actions targeted on the families.

---

<sup>100</sup> As a member of the Council of Europe, in 2004 BiH adopted the Revised Social Cohesion Strategy and the Council of Europe Action Plan for Social Cohesion (2010), which means that BiH is committed to building a society that can ensure the wellbeing of all its citizens by minimizing inequality and avoiding marginalization, to manage differences and divisions and to provide everyone with an opportunity to achieve well-being." Available at: [http://www.pfsa.unsa.ba/pf/wpcontent/uploads/2017/01/strategija\\_i\\_plan\\_za\\_socijalnu\\_koheziju.pdf](http://www.pfsa.unsa.ba/pf/wpcontent/uploads/2017/01/strategija_i_plan_za_socijalnu_koheziju.pdf) Accessed on: July 2020

Improving the social position of children, youth and families with children can be achieved with the implementation of the following priority measures:

- Boosting birth rates in the community;
- Strengthening the economic status of families with children;
- Creating a safe environment for the child's development, including providing support to the family;
- Support for the early childhood development;
- Improving the sexual health of young people;
- Raising the quality of education through the use of digital technologies;
- Increasing youth employment;
- Support for the economic independence of young people;
- Providing more efficient social support to children, youth and families with children with special emphasis on support to the ones in a state of social needs;
- Promotion of family values and development of healthy lifestyles in the community;
- Providing protection and support to children, youth and families with children during and after natural and other disasters, with special emphasis on providing support to children with disabilities and multiple-member families.

## **Goal No. 2: Fight against poverty**

The analysis of the situation showed that both forms of poverty are present in the society of the Republika Srpska (absolute and relative), and that the issue of social support for the poor is becoming a key determinant of the social development of society.

The fight against poverty implies a commitment to the complete eradication of extreme poverty in society and the reduction of the number of persons and families living in relative poverty.

The systemic responses to the problems of poverty in society are determined by the role of the state and its engagement in providing social security to its citizens, and they can be observed at three levels:

- The first level: The priority role of the state is to create a favorable economic environment in which the individuals will work and thus ensure their own and their family wellbeing, and hence avoid the risk of poverty.
- The second level: The state organizes efficient social security systems that provide a response to unfavorable life situations in which an individual may find himself/herself due to illness, disability, old age and unemployment. The function of these systems is to provide social security to present generations from the funds of present insured persons and thus prevent the risks of poverty.
- Third level: When an individual or family finds themselves in a state of poverty, and unable to get out of it with their work and their own resources, the state organizes a system of social protection/assistance that provides basic subsistence needs and minimum social security guaranteed by the state. Social protection/assistance measures can have a protective and preventive character/role. The protective role of these measures refers to the direct actions in line with the current state of social need, and the preventive one is aimed at preventing the state of social dependence. In both cases, the action is recognized as direct cash transfers or as social services.

In line with this concept of the role of a state in fight against poverty, three groups of measures may be defined for achieving the goal of eradication of extreme poverty and reduction of the number of people living in the relative poverty.

The first group of measures concerns the creation of a stimulating environment for employment, with a special emphasis on the employment of socially vulnerable groups, which include:

- Promoting economic recovery and employment measures;
- Education in line with the labor market needs;
- Employment of hard-to-employ categories of the population;
- Encouraging employment and self-employment of persons from socially vulnerable groups;
- Activation and employment of marginalized groups in crisis situations;

The second group of measures refers to improving the efficiency of the social security system, which includes:

- Increasing the amount of pensions and disability benefits, with special emphasis on the most financially vulnerable persons;
- Expansion of social insurance fund services intended for the most socially vulnerable citizens;
- Providing a package of subsidized health and social services in the field of social security systems for the most socially vulnerable beneficiary groups, with special emphasis on long-term care services;

The third group of measures is aimed at providing effective social protection/assistance, which includes:

- Providing a subsistence minimum (minimum social security) for the most vulnerable individuals/families through sufficient social benefits, taking into account their individual needs and the situation in of the community;
- Ensuring access to social protection services for poor individuals and marginalized groups;
- Ensuring competent social service providers to work with the poor;
- Occupational activation of beneficiary groups according to their capabilities;
- Providing effective social protection/assistance to vulnerable citizens who are in a state of social need caused by the consequences of natural and other disasters;

### **Goal No. 3: Equalization of opportunities and elimination of discrimination against persons with disabilities**

Equalization of opportunities and the elimination of discrimination are the imperatives for the social inclusion of persons with disabilities. The situation of persons with disabilities in the Republika Srpska illustrates the need to improve the quality of their lives, especially since the Republika Srpska has adopted almost all international documents regulating this area; therefore, the implementation of measures in this area has become an obligation and not just a need.

The existing advocacy and other capacities of the disability organizations, as the most interested stakeholder, cannot initiate social change, and the evident powerlessness of

persons with disabilities and their acceptance of the weaknesses of the system regarding the rule of law is associated with ineffective sanctions as a possible measure for change.

Equalization of opportunities and elimination of discrimination against persons with disabilities, as a goal of social inclusion, implies the implementation of the following measures:

- Providing social support (services and facilities) to persons with disabilities, in line with their needs;
- Promoting and building a unified approach and systemic treatment of persons with disabilities, regardless of the place where disability occurred and cause of disability;
- Equalization of rights and financial allocations for all persons with disabilities;
- Creating a unique disability assessment procedure based on a social model;
- Providing adequate health care and access to orthopedic aids;
- Encouraging employment and self-employment by equating the rights of persons with disabilities with different types of disabilities; putting pressure on public sector employers to meet the necessary legal quotas for the employment of persons with disabilities; increasing the amount of incentives for employment and self-employment of persons with disabilities;
- Adapting the education system to the specific needs of persons with disabilities;
- Creating conditions for communication and physical accessibility in the community;
- Empowerment and strengthening the capacity of the beneficiaries organizations/associations capacity;
- Providing special protection and support to persons with disabilities during and after natural and other disasters;

#### **Goal No. 4: Safe old age**

The objective of aging is an independent life, free of financial difficulties, illness, disability and misunderstanding. Such expectations are grounded in the nature of a man to live life with as few problems as possible, and this is not always possible, especially not at old age. Old age seems to be everything but a period without problems. It is a condition that results from the characteristics of aging as a biological process, the individual characteristics of each person as a natural and social being, the interaction of the elderly with the social environment and the institutional relationship of the state to the needs of the elderly.

Achieving the goal of "safe old age" means improving the quality of life for elderly people, which is achieved by their active inclusion in society, activating the social environment to provide immediate assistance and support, and providing effective systemic mechanisms for protection and support of the elderly.

Why is it important to involve the elderly in achieving this goal? First of all, because the state of old age is a consequence of the aging process that began long before the old age itself. This is a specific condition that most people will experience in their future, so it is logical to expect that a person during his/her life can partly influence the course of aging and prevent problems that can occur in old age. In addition, the active involvement of elderly is a prerequisite for achieving better results in solving of the problems, as they are the outcome of joint support services planning, and thus, can better respond to the real needs of elderly.

Support of the social environment can be crucial in mitigating the effects of aging as an outcome of the “biological exclusion” process. The social environment (family, neighborhood, friends) carries with it the potential of a catalyst for the social inclusion of the elderly in the community. The positive impact of family and community can make it much easier for a senior person to cope with the problems of isolation and loneliness. Likewise, the negative impact of the immediate social environment can accelerate the psychological, biological, and social disintegration of a senior person.

Social insurance systems and social protection/assistance systems have a key role in ensuring the social security of the elderly. Their operations primarily affect the provision of material conditions necessary for a safe and quality old age. The most frequent beneficiaries of rights and services, and thus the financial resources of the pension, disability and health insurance system, as well as social protection, are the elderly.

The priority measures to achieve this goal are:

- Increasing the amount of pensions, especially the amount of the lowest pensions;
- Ensuring access to health care for the elderly with special emphasis on providing a package of subsidized health and social services for the most vulnerable elderly;
- Alignment of pension and health policy, as well as business policies of social insurance funds with current demographic and economic trends in the society;
- Adapting the social protection/assistance system to demographic changes and the growing needs of the elderly population;
- Encouraging active aging as a model of safe old age;
- Promoting intergenerational and family solidarity in society;
- Providing special protection and support to the elderly during and after natural and other disasters;

#### **Goal No. 5: Full gender equality**

Gender inequalities stem from legal, social and cultural discrimination against women. Gender inequality implies the subordinate position of women in all areas of life, at individual, public and general social level, in the family, on the labor market, and in cultural, economic and political life, etc. Ignoring institutional and systemic gender inequality justifies and provides further encouragement to discrimination and social marginalization of women in a society.

Achieving full gender equality in the society of Republika Srpska is a possible mission if the following measures are implemented:

- Strengthening the economic position and economic independence of women in society;
- Consistent application of women's representation standards in public and political life;
- Inclusion of gender equality contents in education curricula;
- Providing support to women in recruitment for atypical female jobs;
- Providing support to rural women;
- Promotion of gender equality in public;
- Ensuring the efficiency and quality of protection and support services for women victims of gender-based violence, especially in cases of domestic violence;
- Providing special protection and support to socially vulnerable groups of women and girls during and after natural and other disasters, with special emphasis on the protection of women and girls victims of domestic violence;

## **Goal No. 6: Building a tolerant society for all**

The need to build a society without any forms of discrimination and inequality stems from the obligation to support the achievements of modern democratic societies based on the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights from 1948, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights from 1966, the European Social Charter from 1996 and other international documents on which the modern development of mankind is based.

Bosnia and Herzegovina, and thus the Republika Srpska, is the signatory to all international documents that guarantee the exercise of all rights and human freedoms, to all people regardless of their differences on any grounds. The Law on Prohibition of Discrimination was adopted at the level of BiH in 2009, and placed the area of realization of guaranteed rights and freedoms within the legislative framework thus laying the foundation for the full implementation of human rights in the entire territory of BiH.<sup>101</sup> However, the practical application and implementation of everything that has been signed is not going in the expected direction. The citizens of BiH and the Republika Srpska are discriminated on several grounds on a daily basis, and especially the so-called minority groups ("constituent minorities", Roma, national minorities, members of the LGBT population, etc.). Such a situation requires immediate action by all segments of society in order to fully build a society of tolerance for all. In this regard, the measures aimed at achieving this goal should include the following:

- Full implementation of signed international documents related to the issues of human rights and freedoms in domestic legislation;
- Recognition of the interests of minority groups in development documents;
- Enabling full participation of minority groups' members in public and political life;
- Providing direct support to minority groups in exercising their rights;
- Encouraging minority groups to publicly express their interests;
- Establishing cooperation with minority groups and the majority community on specific issues for solving life-essential problems;
- Promoting the right to diversity;
- Providing special protection and support to members of minority groups during and after natural and other disasters;

## **5 SOCIAL INCLUSION MECHANISMS - ACCELERATORS OF CHANGE**

A key concept in implementing a social inclusion strategy is "change". Namely, the states of social exclusion in which socially vulnerable groups of the population find themselves require a change for the better, in the direction of improving the quality of their lives. Achieving all six set goals of social inclusion requires "mechanisms of systemic change" which we may call "accelerators of change" because they will not only create new ones, but will accelerate existing processes that have begun or are already happening, but not fast enough. Their role will be to influence the achievement of the set goals as quickly and

---

<sup>101</sup> The Law may be found at the official website of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly, as well as at the OSCE Mission to BiH website; Available at: <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/1/1/378877.pdf> Accessed on: September 2020

completely as possible and thus bring the members of marginalized groups in a state of greater social inclusion, and this will be recognized as a new quality of their lives.

### **Accelerator 1: Improving social protection policies**

Social protection in modern societies is an organized system of social security of individuals and families who are not able to provide by their own work and their own resources the minimum living conditions for themselves and socially dependent members of their families.<sup>102</sup>

Social protection as a specific area of social action structurally consists of three basic elements: legal and organizational structure of the system; beneficiaries of rights, measures and services, and service providers (institutions and experts), all of which are connected by social problems. It could be said that social problems are a key determinant of social protection in a way that they affect the beneficiaries; the system deals with them and service providers need to address them.

According to EU documents, social protection implies a somewhat broader concept than what is applied in the Republika Srpska. According to this concept, social protection is aimed at providing protection for socially vulnerable groups, but not only in a state of social need but in all life situations that are conditioned by social risks and that lead to a state of social exclusion.<sup>103</sup> Social protection in this context is more comprehensive than the concept of social security and it covers all arrangements in society aimed at the protection and social inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups.<sup>104</sup>

In the Republika Srpska, the social protection is defined by the Law on Social Protection as an activity that includes assistance to persons only when they are in a state of social need and when it is necessary to take measures to prevent and eliminate the consequences of such a situation, and only in situations where they could not satisfy these needs in other social security systems.<sup>105</sup> The system that performs these tasks is the social protection system and it is a set of legal norms, procedures and organizational resources that determine the institutional actions towards the beneficiaries of rights.

At the structural level, the social protection system is a key system of social inclusion of marginalized groups. Achieving a greater degree of efficiency and effectiveness of its activities is the backbone of the improvement of social protection policies in the Republika Srpska.

The operation of the social protection system in the Republika Srpska is quite limited and inefficient. The social protection system is focused only on those cases that are not "covered" by other systems. The beneficiaries of the rights and services of other systems

---

<sup>102</sup> See: Gavrilović, A. (2005); Social Policy, Banja Luka: Faculty of Philosophy

<sup>103</sup> Article 34 of the EU Charter on Fundamental Rights states that the Union recognizes and respects the right to access benefits under social protection and social services providing protection in cases such as maternity leave, illness, accidents at work, addiction or old age, and in the event of loss of employment in accordance with the rules governing the Union *acquis* and national laws and practices. In order to combat social exclusion and poverty, the Union recognizes and respects the right to social and housing assistance in order to ensure a dignified life for all those who do not have sufficient resources, in accordance with the rules governing the Union *acquis* and national laws and practices.

<sup>104</sup> Stubbs, P., Gregson, K. (1998.) Social Policy, Protection and Practice, Svjetlost, Sarajevo.

<sup>105</sup> See Article 2 of the RS Law on Social Protection (Official Gazette of the RS, No. 37/2012, 90/2016, 94/2019 and 42/2020)

cannot be at the same time (or at least not entirely) the beneficiaries of the same or similar rights and services of the social protection system. Being a beneficiary of social assistance ("right to financial assistance") implies cumulative fulfilling of very restrictive conditions, the first of which is "incapacity to work" and complete poverty. The restrictiveness of the conditions for exercising the right leaves a large part of socially vulnerable persons in a state of marginalization and social exclusion. The lack of an administratively defined social security threshold ("social minimum") on the basis of which a uniform planning of measures would be established, prevents the establishment of a single concept of social protection and brings into question the efficiency of the existing protection system.

Such a conceptual approach to social protection leads to problems in exercising the generally accepted universal right to social protection and indicates that in the Republika Srpska the criteria arising from the obligations prescribed by international documents are not applied.

In its Opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina's application for membership in the European Union and its recommendations, the European Commission pointed out the lack of effective social protection systems that would improve the protection and inclusion of vulnerable groups, especially persons with disabilities, children, LGBTI persons, Roma, detainees, migrants and asylum seekers, as well as displaced persons and refugees with the aim to close the Annex VII of the Dayton Peace Agreement.<sup>106</sup>

The analyzes conducted by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in the period from 2006 to 2015<sup>107</sup> also show results that illustrate many problems faced by the system of social, family and child protection, resulting from the increasing workload within the system and chronic lack of human and material resources in social protection institutions. This situation remained even after the entry into force of the new Law on Social Protection in 2012. It can be said that the system of social, family and child protection "suffers" from the following structural problems: the number of citizens seeking interventions from social protection institutions is continuously increasing from year to year, there is a chronic lack of financial resources for benefits and services, and professionals, the procedures and standards of professional work remain undefined, there is a lack of accommodation capacities in institutions for the care of adult beneficiaries, there is a chronic lack of space and material resources for work, there is no institutional professional support for employees in social protection institutions who are under the pressure of professional burnout, etc.

The intensification of existing and the emergence of new social problems, with indifference to the provision of material and human resources for the work of social protection institutions put the entire social protection in an unenviable situation: the social protection system cannot respond to growing social problems, beneficiaries can not get quality and efficient service, and service providers (institutions and professionals) cannot respond to the growing demands of the beneficiaries.

---

<sup>106</sup> European Commission (2019); Opinion of the Commission on the application of Bosnia and Herzegovina for membership in the European Union; Available at: <https://europa.ba/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Misljenje-Komisije-o-zahijevu-Bosne-i-Hercegovina-za-%C4%8Dlanstvo-u-Evropskoj-uniji.pdf> Accessed on: August 2020.

<sup>107</sup> During that period, several extensive analyzes of the functioning of the social, family and child protection systems were conducted. See: Lepir, Lj. (2017)

Taking into account the results of domestic analyzes<sup>108</sup> and recommendations of the international institutions<sup>109</sup>, the priorities in the field of social protection can be defined as the following development processes:

- Redefining the concept of the social protection area in accordance with the new needs and the existing practice of the European Union;
- Implementation of the existing social protection system reform, which would be based on the adoption of new legislation and establishment of a new way of financing;
- Introduction of a social minimum ("social security threshold") into the concept of social security;
- Establishment of uniform monitoring of cash benefits (social benefits);
- Establishment of basic rights and harmonization of criteria for their realization;
- Establishment of a unified system for monitoring the state of social needs of citizens and the results of systemic measures taken (improvement of databases/monitoring statistics, introduction of evaluations of evidence-based measures);
- Introduction of a mechanism for adjusting the amount of cash benefits with the real needs of beneficiaries;
- Establishment of a social insurance system against the risk of long-term care;
- Establishing a model for occupational activation of beneficiaries, in accordance with their capabilities, without the possibility of jeopardizing the right to access to social benefits;
- Development of new and innovation of existing social protection services;
- Development of social services in the community and orientation towards de-institutional protection
- Establishment of multi-sectoral cooperation through clearly defined referral mechanisms, especially in the field of child protection;
- Providing institutional support for the development of the private and non-governmental sector, and their cooperation with the public sector
- Establishment of mechanisms for certification, accreditation and improvement of the social protection quality;
- Development of institutional capacities for providing professional support to workers in social protection (establishment of the Social Protection Institute and the Social Protection Chamber);
- Establishment of business-technical cooperation of the system with higher education institutions in charge of education of professionals in social protection area;
- Establishment of a model for social protection system operation in crisis situations;

## **Accelerator 2: Employment for all and occupational activation of vulnerable categories**

---

<sup>108</sup> See the official analyzes of the RS Ministry of Health and Social Welfare conducted in partnership with professional institutions and international organizations: "The state and prospects of development of the social welfare system in the Republika Srpska" (2008), "Social, family and child protection in the Republika Srpska" (2010), "Analysis of the financial effects of the implementation of the new Law on Social Protection" (2012); "Analysis of the satisfaction of social protection system beneficiaries" (2014) and "Analysis of the functionality of the social protection system" (2015).

<sup>109</sup> See the analyzes of the social sector in BiH conducted by the World Bank in the period 2007-2010, and the documents from 2009 and 2010 and the documents "Reform Agenda" 2013 and the "Opinion of the Commission on Bosnia and Herzegovina's application for membership in the European Union".

Employment is the most efficient and secure mechanism of social inclusion and a resource in the fight against poverty and social exclusion. Employment provides the material basis for the fight against poverty and social exclusion. Each employment reduces the existing and prevents future exclusion.

High unemployment and inactivity rates, and a high share of informal employment have dominated the labor market in the Republika Srpska for many years. The data for the last two years (2018/19) show a trend of increase in the number of employed and decrease in the number of unemployed. According to the data from the Labor Force Survey, in 2019 the employment rate was 42.2%, while in 2018 it was 38.7%. The rate was significantly higher for men than for women. The employment rate for men was 50.0%, while for women it was 34.2%. In the same period, the number of unemployed reduced by 23,000, and the unemployment rate went from 17.2% to 11.7%. Looking at the working age population in the last two years, there is a pronounced downward trend, from 864,000 in 2018 to 826,000 in 2019, which is a decrease of 38,000 people or by 4.4%. Of the total working age population, the number of active population, i.e. the labor force (sum of employed and unemployed), decreased by nine thousand, and the level of inactive (population with working capacity not seeking employment) dropped by 29,000.<sup>110</sup>

In order to obtain a realistic assessment of the situation on the labor market of the Republika Srpska, it is necessary to analyze the positive trends of the reduction in the number of unemployed and increase in the number of employed in the context of the working population. The decrease in the number of working population is a consequence of the intensive process of emigration, mostly the working age population, and the general depopulation that is present in this region.<sup>111</sup>

The position of marginalized groups in the labor market is depressing in many ways.

Women are more represented in the group of unemployed and less in the group of employed persons compared to men, which is a consequence of less education, attachment to family roles and roles in running household chores. There is also a difference in salaries and positions in work processes to the detriment of women. Women are discriminated against, and their position in the labor market depends more on factors that are not related to their individuality. At the end of 2019, there were 45,732 women in the records or 52.54% of the total number registered at the Employment Service of the Republika Srpska.<sup>112</sup>

The youth activity rate is significantly lower than the activity rate for the total population. The number of young people under the age of 24 who are employed is constantly increasing and ranges between 9,000 and 13,000 in the last five years.<sup>113</sup> However, a significant part of young people is inactive, especially young women, and there is also early termination of

---

<sup>110</sup>See:

[https://www.rzs.rs.ba/static/uploads/bilteni/anketa\\_o\\_radnoj\\_snazi/Bilten\\_Anketa\\_O\\_Radnoj\\_Snazi\\_2019\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.rzs.rs.ba/static/uploads/bilteni/anketa_o_radnoj_snazi/Bilten_Anketa_O_Radnoj_Snazi_2019_WEB.pdf) Accessed on: September 2020.

<sup>111</sup> The number of newly issued residence permits for BiH citizens in EU countries is constantly increasing from year to year, so in 2015 there were 19,924 people who requested a stay in one of the EU countries, and in 2018 that number increased to a dramatic 53,500. See: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/population-demography-migration-projections/data> Accessed on: September 2020.

<sup>112</sup> See: [http://www.zzzrs.net/index.php/statistika/bruto\\_pokazatelji/](http://www.zzzrs.net/index.php/statistika/bruto_pokazatelji/) Accessed on: September 2020.

<sup>113</sup> See: [https://www.rzs.rs.ba/static/uploads/bilteni/rad/BiltenStatistike\\_Plata\\_Zaposlenosti\\_i\\_Nezaposlenosti\\_2020\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.rzs.rs.ba/static/uploads/bilteni/rad/BiltenStatistike_Plata_Zaposlenosti_i_Nezaposlenosti_2020_WEB.pdf) Accessed on: September 2020.

schooling, i.e. school dropout, especially in rural areas. It is also disturbing that in the employment records, in the Republika Srpska, 15.83% are young people without any formal occupation.<sup>114</sup>

The employment rate of persons with disabilities cannot be determined more precisely due to the fact that the administrative registries of the Employment Institute and Employment Services of the Entity do not segregate data on employment and unemployment by a person's disability. Support through the refund of contributions is used in the field of employment of persons with disabilities. This commitment was accepted because in such a way persons with disabilities have a better chance to keep their jobs. According to the data of the Fund for Professional Rehabilitation and Employment of Invalids, in this manner, on average about a thousand or more persons with disabilities are supported in their efforts to find employment, on an annual level.<sup>115</sup>

Unemployed persons aged 55-64 are the most at-risk group for employment. It is a workforce with outdated, pre-war-acquired qualifications, weak motivation for further learning and adaptation. As a result, these people are at a higher risk of losing their jobs, which further leads them to poverty or working for low and insecure incomes, often without the basic social security package. In addition, inability to find jobs, and lack of skills needed to find employment and information about the labor market further complicate their job prospects. According to the data of the RS Employment Institute, this group consists of over 15,000 people faced with long-term unemployment.<sup>116</sup>

Data on Roma employment are very scarce, and some estimates indicate that 99% of Roma are unemployed. Only 3% of Roma in BiH have permanent employment (some 1.5% of Roma working population are employed). In the Republika Srpska, Roma are mostly employed in the public sector, while Roma-owned enterprises and craft shops are very few.

The Government of the Republika Srpska has adopted the Employment Strategy for the period 2016-2020<sup>117</sup>, which defines two key strategic goals: Increase employment and economic activity of the population and Maintain existing and create new jobs in the economy.

The priorities of the Social Inclusion Strategy in the employment system are:

- Connecting the education system with the economy;
- Redefining the role and operations of job search mediation institutions;
- Development of social entrepreneurship;
- Supporting employment and inclusion of marginalized groups members in the labor market;
- Supporting employment and self-employment in rural and underdeveloped parts of the Republika Srpska;
- Development of special employment programs in areas affected by natural and other disasters;

### **Accelerator 3: Effective health care**

---

<sup>114</sup> See: [http://www.zzzrs.net/index.php/statistika/kvalifikaciona\\_struktura/](http://www.zzzrs.net/index.php/statistika/kvalifikaciona_struktura/) Accessed on: September 2020.

<sup>115</sup> <https://www.fondinvs.org/>

<sup>116</sup> See: [http://www.zzzrs.net/index.php/statistika/starosna\\_struktura/](http://www.zzzrs.net/index.php/statistika/starosna_struktura/) Accessed on: September 2020.

<sup>117</sup> See: <https://www.vladars.net/sr-SP-Cyrl/Vlada/Ministarstva/mpb/PAO/Documents/Strategije%20zaposljavanja%202016-2020.pdf> Accessed on: September 2020.

The current COVID-19 pandemic has reminded humanity that health is a prerequisite for the progress and development of each individual, family and community as a whole. Although the issue of health has always been topical, it has now become the number one priority in the world, so it is understandable that the improvement of systemic action in this area should be given due attention in this document.

According to the definition adopted by the WHO in 1948, given by Andrija Štampar in 1926, health is a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing, and not just the absence of illness and exhaustion, which expands the concept of health to the importance of the social environment in which it occurs. The 1986 Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion<sup>118</sup> and the 2010 Banja Luka Charter for Health in All Policies<sup>119</sup> confirm this stance.

Any threat to health at any level leads to a risk of entering into a state of social exclusion. Ensuring efficient health care and preventing health-based exclusion is the task of every health system, but also of society as a whole.

The members of most marginalized groups are by nature more at risk of social exclusion. Although the Constitution of the Republika Srpska clearly states that every resident has the right to health care, this does not mean that in practice there are no problems in exercising it. These problems specifically impose the need to launch the mechanism "Effective health care" as a key development direction in meeting the goals of social inclusion of marginalized groups.

Systemic priorities in the area of health care are:

- Redefining the concept of health insurance
- Ensuring full accessibility of health services for all;
- Defining clear procedures for achieving health care for all, with special emphasis on socially vulnerable groups;
- Improvement of specialized health care services for children and youth with special emphasis on services intended for children suffering from rare diseases;
- Protection of privacy of health care users;
- Development of multi-sectoral cooperation in the realization of health care;
- Providing continuous support to health professionals in working with marginalized groups;
- Promoting the view that disease prevention is the most effective method of maintaining health;
- Building a sustainable model of health care in crisis situations, such as epidemics, natural disasters, etc.);

#### **Accelerator 4: Inclusive education**

Education is a precondition for the development of society, but it is also a resource of social inclusion of an individual in a society. It is multi-functionally connected with employment, poverty, health and other areas of human life in which the consequences of social exclusion

---

<sup>118</sup> The 1986 Ottawa Charter defines the preconditions for health promotion, which include: peace, shelter, education, food, income, a stable ecosystem, sustainable resources, and social justice and health equity.

<sup>119</sup> In October 2011, the Third Forum of Health Ministers of Southeast Europe was held in Banja Luka, where a Declaration entitled "Health in All Policies" was signed, committing the signatory countries in the region to an integrated approach to health care and promoting multi-sectoral cooperation.

of citizens are manifested. More educated people find jobs easier and faster and have higher income, better access to information and take better care of their own health, and more actively participate in social life. Non-participation in the education process is especially dangerous for children of the poor and marginalized groups. Children of the poor are significantly more likely to leave the education system earlier, which reduces their employment opportunities, intensifies the risk of remaining in poverty and increases the risk of social exclusion.

Inclusive education refers to the ability of the state to provide quality education to every child, regardless of individual specific features. A somewhat broader understanding of the concept of inclusive education implies the process of including children with disabilities in the social life of the community. Children with developmental disabilities have a need to participate in the life of the community because in this way they fight poverty and social marginalization, and the inclusive education enables this.

Systemic priorities in the area of education are:

- Ensuring the availability and quality of educational services regardless of the socio-economic circumstances of the family and the environment in which the child lives;
- Adapting the educational process to children with disabilities and children from socially marginalized groups in regular schools;
- Encouraging the implementation of the concept of lifelong learning in all spheres of life;
- Strengthening the capacities of preschool education in all environments;
- Modernization of the teaching process (introduction of new working methods, technical equipment in schools);
- Raising the living standard of teaching staff in schools;
- Increasing information and technology literacy in the society;
- Promoting the concept of "school for all and at all times";
- Establishment of a sustainable model of "e-learning", with special emphasis on the implementation of the educational process in crisis situations;

### **Accelerator 5: Establish new policies for social protection financing**

The success of social inclusion measures largely depends on the effectiveness of the model for social benefit financing. The analysis of budget allocations for social protection in BiH conducted by the World Bank in 2009 indicated the complete inefficiency of the financing model in this area. At the beginning of 2012, the new Law on Social Protection made certain changes in the previous model of social protection financing in terms of the activities of social welfare centers, but conceptually the model remained almost the same.

The existing model of financing of the social benefits intended for the beneficiaries of social protection rights and services is based on providing financial resources from the budget, partly from social insurance funds, and periodically from international project activities and donations through the work of humanitarian organizations.

Most of the funds are provided in the budget of the RS and the budgets of local communities. The current Law on Social Protection defines a participatory way of financing cash benefits. The right to personal disability benefits and the right to support in equalization of opportunities for children and youth with disabilities is fully financed from the budget of the RS, while the right to financial assistance and the right to allowance for

assistance and care of another person with respective right to health insurance is financed 50% from the budget of the RS, and 50% from the budget of local communities. Other rights are financed in full amount from the budget of local self-administration units. This method of financing was established to lift the burden from the local self-administration units and to ensure uniformity in the practice of payment of social benefits in the entire territory of the Republika Srpska.

Financing of child protection is provided in a completely different way. Namely, the funds for the payment for the rights stemming from the Law on Child Protection are provided by the rate of 1.7% contributions from salaries and personal income, and the missing funds are provided directly from the budget of the RS. This combined financing model is an indigenous model that, in the region, only exists in the Republika Srpska.

A significant part of the funds needed to finance pensions and disability benefits, and partly health care are also provided from the budget of the RS, because the funds provided by contributions are not sufficient to "cover" all expenditures of social insurance funds. That was the reason why at the beginning of 2016 the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund was transferred to the so-called budget operations system.

The financing of other social benefits stemming from the exercise of rights regulated by other laws, such as benefits for veteran-disabled protection, social protection of civilian victims of war, is fully realized from the budget of the RS. A certain part of the funds is provided from the budget of local self-administration units, such as financial compensations based on measures of pronatalist policy, pupil and student standard and one-time social benefits.

Social benefits in the Budget of the Republika Srpska are recognized in the form of transfers. Thus, BAM 237,441,600.00 is planned for 2020, which is about BAM 8 million less than in 2019.<sup>120</sup> The situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic could not have been foreseen; therefore, the adoption of the Budget Rebalance was initiated with the main characteristic of the reduction of revenues and the increase of expenditures for the economy and social programs.<sup>121</sup> This commitment of the Government of the Republika Srpska at the beginning of the crisis gives optimism that the needs of socially sensitive and marginalized groups will be taken into account in the time to come.

In addition to the objective problems conditioned by macroeconomic developments, internal financial opportunities and the consequences of the COVID19 pandemic, the current state of the existing model of social benefits financing stems from the following structural problems:

---

<sup>120</sup> Republika Srpska Budget Proposal for 2020; Available at: <https://www.narodnaskupstinars.net/?q=la/akti/bud%C5%BEet/bud%C5%BEet-republike-srpske-za-2020-godinu> Accessed on: June 2020.

<sup>121</sup> At the end of May 2020, the National Assembly of the Republika Srpska adopted under the urgent procedure the Budget Rebalance in the amount of BAM 3.613 billion, which is an increase of BAM 188 million. Budget revenues by the end of the year are estimated at BAM 2.757 billion, which is less by BAM 240 million, and the total increase in expenditures is BAM 229.2 million. The deficit that will be compensated by new borrowings and debt, according to the RS Minister of Finance, will amount to around BAM 412 million. Source: <https://www.nezavisne.com/novosti/bih/Usvojen-rebalans-budzeta-za-2020-godinu/600708> Accessed on: September 2020.

- Budget planning is not based on the actual needs for beneficiaries rights financing and the needs of the functioning of the system (budget planning is done without the actual influence of professional social protection services);
- Uniform monitoring of cash benefits payments to beneficiaries of social benefits from the budget of the RS and the budget of local communities has not been established;
- Undefined social minimum (social security threshold) prevents realistic planning of funds for social benefits;

The establishment of new policies for social benefits financing should solve the existing problems in providing, monitoring and execution (payment) of budget funds to citizens based on their rights. The creation of new financing policies should be based on the introduction of new sources and mechanisms for securing funds, and the introduction of greater control over the payment of cash benefits from the budget (entity and local). In particular, this would involve the implementation of the following measures:

- Expand the model of participatory financing (co-financing from several sources) to the remaining cash benefits (rights) and some social services, following the already applied model of financing the right to financial assistance and the right to allowance for assistance and care of another person;
- Exempt the provision of social services from the VAT payment;
- Exempt private sector revenues in the field of social protection from tax liabilities;
- Provide credit funds (special credit lines) for the development of social services in the public, private and non-governmental sectors;
- Introduce taxation of luxury products and items, and direct the generated revenues to the newly established fund based on the "beer tax" introduced in Belgium at the beginning of the 20th century (establish the Social Fund of the Republika Srpska);
- In cooperation with banks, establish a mechanism for insurance against social risk through real estate mortgages (mortgage loans for sustenance);
- Define the rate of contribution to salaries that will be aimed at ensuring the risk of long-term care;
- Direct part of the income from social entrepreneurship to the newly formed Social Fund;
- Establish closer cooperation with non-governmental organizations in the development and implementation of projects in the field of social protection;

## 6 SOCIAL INCLUSION INDICATORS - STATUS/PERFORMANCE

### INDICATORS AND PROCESS INDICATORS

Social exclusion is a multidimensional problem and its measurement requires a multidimensional approach. A prerequisite for effective monitoring of the achievement of social inclusion goals is the definition of multidimensional indicators, which in this case must record the situation and identify processes that lead to changes in the quality of life of socially vulnerable and socially marginalized groups.

The meaning of the existence of strategic goals achievement indicators is that policy makers and their implementers receive adequate information on the state, degree and trends of change in various areas of life (employment, poverty, living standards, education, health, pensions, housing, social benefits, etc.), where social inclusion measures are implemented, and based on that to make corrections and changes in adopted policies.

**The selection of individual indicators should in principle be guided by the following minimum methodological criteria:**

- The indicator should cover the essence of the problem and have a clear and accepted normative interpretation;
- The indicator should be robust and statistically validated
- The indicator should provide a sufficient level of comparability between countries, as far as it is possible and feasible using internationally applied definitions and data collection standards
- The indicator should be based on available essential data, be timely and sensitive to its revision
- The indicator should correspond to policy interventions, but should not be subject to manipulation

Their definition should be based on the methodological principles agreed in Leaken in 2001 and finalized in the documents of the European Commission and are related to the selection of new indicators and the improvement of methods for reporting on the state of social inclusion in the member states.<sup>122</sup> Also, the proposed indicators should be comparable at the international level and follow the matrices (schemes) of the ESSPROS system for monitoring social benefits in European countries.<sup>123</sup> These indicators are also called situation indicators, and they show how much (to what extent) a certain characteristic of the phenomenon has changed. The change is valorized in relation to the initial state, and it can be positive or negative depending on the direction, i.e. whether the change has positively or negatively affected the quality of life, and thus the process of social inclusion of marginalized groups.

Process indicators refer to the measurement of the degree of implementation of individual institutional measures and activities that are defined within the given accelerators of change. Process indicators show whether systemic activities (processes) have been initiated that affect the state of social inclusion. Moreover, these indicators document the achieved level of activities that can have a positive or negative impact on the quality of life and social inclusion of marginalized groups.

---

<sup>122</sup> See European Commission document: "Portfolio of EU Social Indicators for the Monitoring of Progress Towards the EU Objectives for Social Protection and Social Inclusion" Available at: <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=756&langId=en> Accessed on: September 2020.

<sup>123</sup> ESSPROS stands for "European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics". ESSPROS is a common framework that allows for international comparison of administrative national data on social protection. It provides a coherent comparison between European countries in the field of social benefits for households and their financing.

## 7 NEXT STEPS? – FINALIZATION OF THE DOCUMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY

The Social Inclusion Strategy is an integral document that illustrates the directions of social development of the Republika Srpska through the lens of improvement of the life quality of socially sensitive and socially marginalized groups of the population. Its implementation implies the involvement of a large number of institutions and the establishment of intersectoral cooperation of various systems of social activity that have an impact on the daily lives of citizens. This fact supports the statement that the coordination of activities and method of work are key issues in the organization and implementation of the Strategy.

The document in front of you is not complete. It defines the strategic goals of social inclusion and the priorities of systemic responses to the set goals (accelerators), and then elaborates them to the level of measures that need to be implemented in order to achieve the set goals and systemic priorities. Defining and planning of specific activities and programs, and related indicators, is left to the stakeholders (institutions and bodies of the system) that will implement the strategy based on their annual action plans.

The first step in the implementation of the Social Inclusion Strategy is the establishment of an organizational structure in charge of its implementation. The Government of the Republika Srpska should determine who (which institution?) would do the implementation, and the principles that will serve as the basis for the coordination and intersectoral cooperation.

The organization of the implementation of the Strategy will be based on the application of the principle of subsidiarity, which means that activities will be planned and implemented first at the level at which the problem occurs, and by those bodies directly involved in solving it. It is very important to determine as the coordinating institution the one that has the highest level of participation in the creation of government economic and social policy, and which can implement it with its capacities (human and organizational).

Intersectoral cooperation between institutions and bodies involved in the implementation of the Strategy must be based on the principles of respect for their legally established roles and responsibilities, mutual non-interference in competences, respect for established administrative procedures and utilization of mutual cooperation experience and good business communication. In line with such an approach, the implementation of the Strategy implies the inclusion of relevant institutions and bodies that can realistically respond to the set strategic goals and systemic priorities.

The implementation of the strategy implies the simultaneous management of two compatible processes: the first, the realization of set goals related to improving the quality of life of socially vulnerable and socially marginalized groups (there are six), and the second, the realization of key priorities of the five most important systems of social activity initiating and leading to change and thus affecting the improvement of the quality of life and raising the level of social inclusion of members of marginalized groups.

The Strategy is designed to allow an action approach in its implementation, which means that in achieving the objectives of the Strategy, key stakeholders will be guided by the real needs of members of socially vulnerable and socially marginalized groups and realistic systemic opportunities.

## 8 ANNEX- STATISTICAL INDICATORS

### 1. MACROECONOMIC INDICATORS

Table 1.1 GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT FOR BiH and FBiH, current prices

|                                          | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018 <sup>1)</sup> |
|------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------------|
| GDP for BiH, mil KM <sup>2)</sup>        | 26779 | 27359 | 28589 | 29904 | 31376 | 33408              |
| GDP for Republic of Srpska <sup>3)</sup> | 8793  | 8887  | 9205  | 9631  | 10077 | 10680              |

1) First results

2) Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH: Gross domestic product by production, income and expenditure approach, TB 01, 2020.

3) Source: Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics: Nacional accounts 2019, Statistical Bulletin

Table 1.2. SHARE OF RS GDP in BiH GDP (%)

|                            | 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018 <sup>1)</sup> |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------------------|
| GDP for BiH                | 100,00 | 100,00 | 100,00 | 100,00 | 100,00 | 100,00             |
| GDP for Republic of Srpska | 32,84  | 32,48  | 32,20  | 32,20  | 32,12  | 31,97              |

1) First results

2) Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH: Gross domestic product by production, income and expenditure approach, TB 01, 2020.

3) Source: Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics: Nacional accounts 2019, Statistical Bulletin

Table 1.3. GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, current prices RS<sup>1)</sup>

|                                                    | 2013      | 2014      | 2015      | 2016      | 2017       | 2018       |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| Gross domestic product, thous . KM <sup>1)</sup>   | 8.792.917 | 8.887.307 | 9.205.038 | 9.630.569 | 10.077.017 | 10.679.612 |
| Population – estimate                              | 1.171.179 | 1.167.082 | 1.162.164 | 1.157.516 | 1.153.017  | 1.147.902  |
| Gross domestic product per capita, KM              | 7.508     | 7.615     | 7.921     | 8.320     | 8.740      | 9.304      |
| Gross domestic product, thous . EUR                | 4.495.816 | 4.544.078 | 4.706.533 | 4.924.107 | 5.152.376  | 5.460.483  |
| Gross domestic product per capita, EUR             | 3.839     | 3.894     | 4.050     | 4.254     | 4.469      | 4.757      |
| Gross domestic product, thous. USD                 | 5.967.368 | 6.029.381 | 5.222.420 | 5.447.154 | 5.806.406  | 6.443.205  |
| Gross domestic product per capita, USD             | 5.095     | 5.166     | 4.494     | 4.706     | 5.036      | 5.613      |
| Average Annual Exchange Rate, KM/USD <sup>2)</sup> | 1,47      | 1,47      | 1,76      | 1,77      | 1,74       | 1,66       |

1) Source: Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics: Nacional accounts 2019, Statistical Bulletin

2) Source: Central Bank of BiH

Table 1.4. FOREIGN TRADE BALANCE OF RS (000 KM)

|                                  | 2013       | 2014       | 2015       | 2016       | 2017       | 2018       | 2019       |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Export                           | 2.604.090  | 2.692.013  | 2.613.924  | 2.869.101  | 3.476.093  | 3.741.823  | 3.610.368  |
| Chain indices for exports        | 109,7      | 103,4      | 97,1       | 109,8      | 121,2      | 107,6      | 96,5       |
| Import                           | 4.557.635  | 4.946.061  | 4.369.179  | 4.426.945  | 4.899.081  | 5.222.270  | 4.782.190  |
| Chain indices for imports        | 101,6      | 108,5      | 88,3       | 101,3      | 110,7      | 106,6      | 91,6       |
| Trade balance                    | -1.953.545 | -2.254.048 | -1.755.255 | -1.557.844 | -1.480.988 | -1.480.447 | -1.171.822 |
| Coverage of imports by exports,% | 57,1       | 54,4       | 59,8       | 64,8       | 71,0       | 71,7       | 75,5       |

Source: Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics: Foreign Trade 2020, Statistical Bulletin; Foreign Trade 2016, Statistical Bulletin 10

Table 1.5. Unemployment rate in RS

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 27,0 | 25,7 | 25,2 | 24,8 | 21,0 | 17,2 | 11,7 |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey, 2013-2019.

Table 1.6. Employment rate in RS

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 34,6 | 34,9 | 35,2 | 35,5 | 37,3 | 38,7 | 42,2 |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey, 2013-2019.

Table 1.7. Activity rate in RS

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 47,4 | 47,0 | 47,1 | 47,2 | 47,2 | 46,7 | 47,8 |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey, 2013-2019.

## 2. DEMOGRAPHICS

Table 2.1. Live births in RS

| 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| 9.510 | 9.335 | 9.357 | 9.452 | 9.339 | 9.568 | 9274 |

Source: Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics, 2020, Statistical Bulletin; Demographic Statistics 2015, Statistical Bulletin 18.

Table 2.2. Deaths in RS

| 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   | 2019  |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 13.978 | 14.409 | 15.059 | 13.970 | 14.663 | 14.763 | 15081 |

Source: Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics, 2020, Statistical Bulletin; Demographic Statistics 2015, Statistical Bulletin 18.

Table 2.3. Population growth in RS

| 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   | 2019  |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| -4.468 | -5.074 | -5.702 | -4.518 | -5.324 | -5.195 | -5807 |

Source: Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics, 2020, Statistical Bulletin; Demographic Statistics 2015, Statistical Bulletin 18.

### 3. DATA ON CHILDREN

Table 3.1 Children in preschool education in RS

|                                                                           | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018  | 2019  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| Total                                                                     | 7599 | 8166 | 9093 | 9953 | 1240 | 12156 | 13138 |
| Admitted to public preschool institutions                                 | 6448 | 6522 | 6961 | 7454 | 7773 | 8553  | 9074  |
| Admitted to private preschool institutions                                | 1151 | 1644 | 2132 | 2499 | 2467 | 3603  | 260   |
| Total children with special needs admitted                                | 138  | 195  | 156  | 154  | 184  | 194   | 187   |
| Children with special needs - Admitted to public preschool institutions   | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -     | -     |
| Children with special needs - Admitted to private preschool institutions  | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -     | -     |
| Total not admitted due to full capacity                                   | 2643 | 1539 | 2379 | 1716 | 1071 | 1331  | 1406  |
| Not admitted to public preschool institutions due to their full capacity  | 2600 | 1394 | 2335 | 1599 | 934  | 1180  | 1146  |
| Not admitted to private preschool institutions due to their full capacity | 43   | 145  | 44   | 117  | 137  | 151   | 260   |

Source: Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics, Preschool Education, school years 2011/2012-2015/2016, Statistical Bulletin 9; Preschool Education, school years 2015/2016-2019/2020, Statistical Bulletin

Table 3.2. Enrolled in primary education in RS

|       | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total | 96524 | 95223 | 93670 | 92312 | 90995 | 89630 | 87956 |

Source: Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics, Primary Education, school year 2015/2016, Statistical Bulletin 16; Primary Education 2019/2020, Statistical Bulletin

## 4. YOUTH

Table 4.1. Number of enrolled students in secondary schools in RS-Total

| 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 46421 | 43975 | 42089 | 41136 | 39831 | 38499 | 37206 |

Source: Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics, Secondary Education, school year 2016/2017, Statistical Bulletin 16; Secondary Education 2019/2020, Statistical Bulletin

Table 4.2. Number of enrolled students in secondary schools in RS - Female

| 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 23072 | 21926 | 21018 | 20681 | 20059 | 19324 | 18715 |

Source: Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics, Secondary Education, school year 2016/2017, Statistical Bulletin 16; Secondary Education 2019/2020, Statistical Bulletin

Table 4.3. Number of enrolled students at universities in RS - Total

| 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| 41988 | 39735 | 37390 | 34792 | 31850 | 29006 |      |

Source: Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics, Higher Education 2016, Statistical Bulletin 13; Higher Education 2019/2020, Statistical Bulletin

Table 4.4. Number of enrolled students at universities in RS - Female

| 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| 23327 | 22202 | 20982 | 19677 | 18110 | 16771 |      |

Source: Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics, Higher Education 2016, Statistical Bulletin 13; Higher Education 2019/2020, Statistical Bulletin

Table 4.5. Workforce in RS (000) 15 - 24 years

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 37   | 36   | 40   | 37   | 36   | 38   | 36   |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 4.6. Employees in RS (000) 15 - 24 years

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| (15) | (16) | (17) | (18) | (19) | 24   | 28   |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 4.7. Unemployed in RS (000) 15 - 24 years

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| (22) | 20   | 23   | (20) | (17) | (13) | (9)  |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 4.8. Inactive in RS (000) 15 - 24 years

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 85   | 81   | 86   | 81   | 72   | 72   | 64   |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 4.9. Unemployment rate in RS 15 - 24 years

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019   |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------|
| 59,2 | 56,5 | 56,5 | 52,3 | 46,2 | 35,2 | (23,8) |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 4.10. Workforce in RS (000) 15 - 24 years - Male

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 24   | 23   | 26   | 25   | (25) | 26   | (23) |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 4.11. Employees in RS (000) 15 - 24 years - Male

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| (10) | (10) | (13) | (13) | (14) | 19   | (18) |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 4.12. Unemployed in RS (000) 15 - 24 years - Male

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| (14) | (13) | (14) | (12) | (11) | (8)  | (5)  |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 4.13. Inactive in RS (000) 15 - 24 years - Male

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 39   | 41   | 39   | 39   | (32) | 33   | 35   |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 4.14. Unemployment rate in RS 15 - 24 years - Male

| <b>2013</b> | <b>2014</b> | <b>2015</b> | <b>2016</b> | <b>2017</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>2019</b> |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 59,2        | 56,5        | 56,5        | 47,5        | (42,1)      | (29,8)      | (20,6)      |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 4.15. Workforce in RS (000) 15 - 24 years - Female

| <b>2013</b> | <b>2014</b> | <b>2015</b> | <b>2016</b> | <b>2017</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>2019</b> |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| (13)        | (13)        | (13)        | (12)        | (11)        | (11)        | (14)        |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 4.16. Employees in RS (000) 15 - 24 years - Female

| <b>2013</b> | <b>2014</b> | <b>2015</b> | <b>2016</b> | <b>2017</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>2019</b> |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| (5)         | (5)         | (5)         | (5)         | (5)         | (6)         | (10)        |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 4.17. Unemployed in RS (000) 15 - 24 years - Female

| <b>2013</b> | <b>2014</b> | <b>2015</b> | <b>2016</b> | <b>2017</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>2019</b> |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| (7)         | (8)         | (9)         | (8)         | (6)         | ((5))       | (4)         |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 4.18. Inactive in RS (000) 15 - 24 years - Female

| <b>2013</b> | <b>2014</b> | <b>2015</b> | <b>2016</b> | <b>2017</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>2019</b> |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 46          | 40          | 47          | 42          | 40          | 39          | 29          |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 4.19. Unemployment rate in RS 15 - 24 years - Female

| <b>2013</b> | <b>2014</b> | <b>2015</b> | <b>2016</b> | <b>2017</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>2019</b> |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 58,7        | 58,7        | 65,1        | 52,3        | 46,2        | 35,2        | (29,1)      |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

## 5. POVERTY

Picture: Poverty in RS according to different poverty lines 2004-2011<sup>124</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>124</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 RS in 2015

Table 5.1.1. Amount of relative poverty line in RS (KM)

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015   | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|--------|------|------|------|------|
|      |      | 362,34 |      |      |      |      |

Source: Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics, BiH Household Budget Survey, 2015

60.0% of median monthly equalized consumption expenditure in Republic of Srpska amounted to 362,34 KM in 2015.

This value represents the relative poverty line (or standard poverty line) for a single-member adult household.

The relative poverty rate of the population in the Republika Srpska in 2015 was 12.8% and compared to 2011 is lower by 1.6 percentage points.

According to the Household Budget Survey 49,805 households or 126,043 inhabitants in Republika Srpska were below the relative poverty line in 2015.

## 5.2 Absolute poverty in RS125 in 2015

### Poverty line

The absolute poverty line at the level of Republic of Srpska for 2015 is 228 KM per household member monthly.

The absolute poverty line is calculated in such a way that the absolute poverty line from 2007, which amounts to 201<sup>126</sup> KM, was updated for inflation in the period 2007-2015, using data on the increase in the consumer price index in BiH.

### Absolutely poor people

Absolutely poor people are people who are unable to meet the minimum of their non-food needs (they should be distinguished from the extremely poor people who are by definition unable to meet the minimum of their nutritional needs).

PAPD 2015 estimates that 985,854 inhabitants live in RS i.e. they were present during the survey.

In RS in 2015 there were 138 thousand absolutely poor people or 14% of the population (almost every seventh inhabitant) was absolutely poor.

---

<sup>125</sup> Author's calculation

<sup>126</sup> [https://www.rzs.rs.ba/front/article/348/?left\\_mi=None&up\\_mi=&add=None](https://www.rzs.rs.ba/front/article/348/?left_mi=None&up_mi=&add=None)

## Age structure of absolutely poor people

Table 5.2.1. Percentage share of age groups in RS in the total population of RS according to PAPD 2015 data

|    | 0-14 | 15-24 | 25-64 | 65+ | Total |
|----|------|-------|-------|-----|-------|
| RS | 12%  | 12%   | 55%   | 22% | 100%  |

Table 5.2.2. Percent of absolutely poor people in RS by age group, PAPD 2015

|    | 0-14 | 15-24 | 25-64 | 65+ | Total |
|----|------|-------|-------|-----|-------|
| RS | 24%  | 13%   | 13%   | 11% | 14%   |

Table 5.2.3. Percentage share of absolutely poor people in RS by age group in the total population of absolutely poor people in RS, PAPD 2015

|    | 0-14 | 15-24 | 25-64 | 65+ | Total |
|----|------|-------|-------|-----|-------|
| RS | 20%  | 11%   | 52%   | 17% | 100%* |

\* 100% corresponds to all absolutely poor persons in the RS that are estimated at 138 thousand

## One-member elderly households

Table 5.2.4. Percentage share of the population in one-member elderly households in RS in the total population of RS, PAPD 2015

|    | One - member elderly households | Total |
|----|---------------------------------|-------|
| RS | 6%                              | 100%  |

Table 5.2.5. Percentage of absolutely poor persons in RS living in one-member elderly households, PAPD 2015

|    | One-member elderly households | Total |
|----|-------------------------------|-------|
| RS | 6%                            | 14%   |

Table 5.2.6. Percentage share of absolutely poor persons in RS living in one-member elderly households in the total population of absolutely poor persons in RS, PAPD 2015

|    | One-member elderly households | Total |
|----|-------------------------------|-------|
| RS | 3%                            | 100%* |

\* 100 corresponds to all absolutely poor people in RS that are estimated at 138 thousand

## Households with only one parent

Table 5.2.7. Percentage share of the population in households with only one parent in RS in the total population of RS, PAPD 2015

|    | Households with only one parent | Total |
|----|---------------------------------|-------|
| RS | (<1%)                           | 100%  |

( ) Data based on 25 to 49 unweighted cases

Table 5.2.8. Percentage of absolutely poor persons in RS in households where only one parent lives, PAPD 2015

|    | Households with only one parent | Total |
|----|---------------------------------|-------|
| RS | (7%)                            | 14%   |

( ) Data based on 25 to 49 unweighted cases

Table 5.2.9. Percentage share of absolutely poor persons in RS in households where only one parent lives in the total population of absolutely poor persons in RS, PAPD 2015

|    | Households with only one parent | Total |
|----|---------------------------------|-------|
| RS | <1%                             | 100%* |

\* 100% corresponds to all absolutely poor people in RS who are estimated at 138 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 RS in the total population of RS, PAPD 2015

|    | Households with 5 or more household members | Total |
|----|---------------------------------------------|-------|
| RS | 30%                                         | 100%  |

Table 5.2.11. Percentage share of absolutely poor persons in BiH, entities and BD BiH in households with 5 or more household members, PAPD 2015 godine

|    | Households with 5 or more household members | Total |
|----|---------------------------------------------|-------|
| RS | 25%                                         | 14%   |

At the RS level 25% or every fourth person living in households with 5 or more members is absolutely poor.

Table 5.2.12. Percentage share of absolutely poor persons in RS in households with 5 or more household members in the total population of absolutely poor persons in RS, PAPD 2015

|    | Households with 5 or more household members | Total |
|----|---------------------------------------------|-------|
| RS | 54%                                         | 100%* |

\* 100% corresponds to all absolutely poor people in RS that are estimated at 138 thousand

## Young unemployed people

Table 5.2.13. Percentage share of young (15-24 years of age) unemployed persons in RS in the total population of RS, PAPD 2015

|    | Young unemployed people | Total |
|----|-------------------------|-------|
| RS | 3%                      | 100%  |

Table 5.2.14. Percentage of absolutely poor young unemployed persons in RS, PAPD 2015

|    | Young unemployed people | Total |
|----|-------------------------|-------|
| RS | 19%                     | 14%   |

Table 5.2.15. Percentage share of absolutely poor young unemployed persons in RS in households with 5 or more household members in the total population of absolutely poor persons in RS, PAPD 2015

|    | Young unemployed people | Total |
|----|-------------------------|-------|
| RS | 4%                      | 100%* |

\* 100% corresponds to all absolutely poor people in RS that are estimated at 138 thousand

## Educational structure of absolutely poor people

Table 5.2.16. Percentage share of the population (15 and older) in RS by completed education in the total population of RS, PAPD 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 | Doctorate | Total – persons aged 15 and over |
|----|-----------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------------------------|-------------|------------------|--------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| RS | 5%        | 6%                                                   | 2%                                                  | 19%            | 45%         | 1%                               | 2%          | 6%               | <1%    | <1%       | 88%                              |

Table 5.2.17. Percentage of absolutely poor persons in RS aged 15 and over by highest level of education, PAPD 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 | Doctorate | Total |
|----|-----------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------------------------|-------------|------------------|--------|-----------|-------|
| RS | 23%       | 12%                                                  | 15%                                                 | 15%            | 12%         | 8%                               | 5%          | 5%               | (0%)   | (*)       | 14%   |

() – Data based on 25 to 49 unweighted cases

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

Table 5.2.18 Percentage share of absolutely poor persons in RS aged 15 and over by highest level of education in the total population of absolutely poor persons in RS, PAPD 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 | Doctorate | Total |
|----|-----------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------------------------|-------------|------------------|--------|-----------|-------|
| RS | 9%        | 5%                                                   | 3%                                                  | 20%            | 40%         | 0%                               | 1%          | 2%               | 0%     | 0%        | 100%* |

\* 100% corresponds to all absolutely poor people in RS that are estimated at 138 thousand

## Absolutely poor people by activity status

Table 5.2.19. Percentage share of the population (15 and older) in RS by employment status in the total population of RS, PAPD 2015

|    | Employed full working time | Employed less than full time | Unemployed, had a job | Unemployed and looking for the first job | Housewife | Student/ High school | Unable to work | Pensioner (old-age and early retirement ) | Other | Total |
|----|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| RS | 27%                        | 3%                           | 6%                    | 7%                                       | 16%       | 8%                   | 3%             | 17%                                       | 1%    | 88%   |

Table 5.2.20. Percentage of absolutely poor persons in RS aged 15 and over by employment status, PAPD 2015

|    | Employed full working time | Employed less than full time | Unemployed, had a job | Unemployed and looking for the first job | Housewife | Student/ High school | Unable to work | Pensioner (old-age and early retirement ) | Other | Total |
|----|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| RS | 11%                        | 17%                          | 15%                   | 18%                                      | 15%       | 11%                  | 21%            | 8%                                        | 15%   | 14%   |

Table 5.2.21. Percentage share of absolutely poor persons in RS aged 15 and over by employment status in the total population of absolutely poor persons in RS, PAPD 2015

|    | Employed full working time | Employed less than full time | Unemployed, had a job | Unemployed and looking for the first job | Housewife | Student/ High school | Unable to work | Pensioner (old-age and early retirement ) | Other | Total |
|----|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| RS | 22%                        | 3%                           | 7%                    | 10%                                      | 16%       | 6%                   | 5%             | 10%                                       | 1%    | 100%* |

\* 100% corresponds to all absolutely poor people in RS all ages (including children under 15) that are estimated at 138 thousand

## Absolute poverty in RS in the period 2007-2015

Table 5.2.22. Indicators of absolute poverty in RS in the period 2007-2015

|                           | 2007    | 2011    | 2015   |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|--------|
| Total persons *           | 1166173 | 1060290 | 985584 |
| Poor people               | 195802  | 167557  | 138212 |
| Percentage of poor people | 16.8    | 15.8    | 14.0   |
| Poverty gap               | 0.04    | 0.04    | 0.03   |
| Squared poverty gap       | 0.02    | 0.02    | 0.01   |
| Poverty deficit           | 0.24    | 0.25    | 0.21   |

\* Estimate of the present population in RS according to APD / PAPD for a given year differs from the official estimate of the number of population in RS according to the 2013 Census

Table 5.2.23. Absolute poverty rates by sex of household head in RS in the period 2007-2015

|       | 2007 | 2011 | 2015 |
|-------|------|------|------|
| Total | 17%  | 16%  | 14%  |

|        |     |     |     |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|
| Male   | 17% | 16% | 14% |
| Female | 16% | 14% | 15% |

Table 5.2.24. Absolute poverty rates by age group of household members in RS in the period 2011-2015

|              | 2011 | 2015 |
|--------------|------|------|
| 0-5          | 25%  | 24%  |
| 6-17         | 24%  | 21%  |
| 18-24        | 14%  | 13%  |
| 25-44        | 17%  | 17%  |
| 45-64        | 12%  | 11%  |
| 65 and above | 13%  | 11%  |
| Total        | 16%  | 14%  |

Table 5.2.25. Absolute poverty rates by number of children in the household in RS in the period 2007-2015

|                        | 2007 | 2011 | 2015 |
|------------------------|------|------|------|
| No children            | 13%  | 8%   | 9%   |
| One child              | 17%  | 15%  | 13%  |
| Two children           | 22%  | 18%  | 22%  |
| Three or more children | 40%  | 32%  | 40%  |
| Total                  | 17%  | 16%  | 14%  |

Table 5.2.26. Absolute poverty rates by number of household members in RS in the period 2011-2015

|               | 2007 | 2011 | 2015 |
|---------------|------|------|------|
| One           | 8%   | 6%   | 4%   |
| Two           | 11%  | 8%   | 6%   |
| Three         | 13%  | 10%  | 11%  |
| Four          | 12%  | 15%  | 13%  |
| Five and more | 26%  | 26%  | 25%  |
| Total         | 17%  | 16%  | 14%  |

Table 5.2.27. Absolute poverty rates by current activity status of household heads in FBiH in the period 2007-2015

|                  | 2007  | 2011 | 2015 |
|------------------|-------|------|------|
| Employed         | 12%   | 15%  | 12%  |
| Unemployed       | 25%   | 25%  | 20%  |
| Retired          | 17%   | 11%  | 13%  |
| Unable to work   | 32%   | 31%  | 27%  |
| Housewife        | 18%   | 18%  | 15%  |
| Other (inactive) | (32%) | 33%  | 19%  |

|       |     |     |     |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|
| Total | 17% | 16% | 14% |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|

Table 5.2.28. Absolute poverty rates by education of household heads in RS in the period 2007-2015

|                     | 2007 | 2011 | 2015 |
|---------------------|------|------|------|
| No education        | 38%  | 24%  | 24%  |
| Primary education   | 22%  | 24%  | 19%  |
| Secondary education | 13%  | 11%  | 12%  |
| Higher education    | 3%   | 6%   | 6%   |
| Total               | 17%  | 16%  | 14%  |

## 6. DATA ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Table 6.1. RS population by disability status and gender

| Gender | Total     | People with disabilities | People without disabilities | Unknown Status |
|--------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Total  | 1.228.423 | 104.454                  | 1.105.012                   | 18.957         |
| Male   | 603.027   | 47.844                   | 545.897                     | 9.286          |
| Female | 625.396   | 56.610                   | 559.115                     | 9.671          |

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

Table 6.2. People with disabilities in RS 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    | 104.454 | 18.926          | 8.315     | 33.915                   | 2.831                   | 542                                      | 868           | 39.057                |
| Total  | Under 15 | 1.225   | 285             | 89        | 169                      | 59                      | 42                                       | 93            | 488                   |
| Total  | 15-19    | 814     | 228             | 66        | 125                      | 28                      | 5                                        | 41            | 321                   |
| Total  | 20-29    | 1.786   | 485             | 116       | 352                      | 107                     | 16                                       | 69            | 641                   |

|        |           |        |        |       |        |       |     |     |        |
|--------|-----------|--------|--------|-------|--------|-------|-----|-----|--------|
| Total  | 30-49     | 11.406 | 2.254  | 799   | 4.364  | 621   | 104 | 213 | 3.051  |
| Total  | 50-59     | 18.384 | 4.271  | 1.160 | 6.930  | 616   | 109 | 150 | 5.148  |
| Total  | 60-64     | 12.612 | 2.730  | 898   | 4.704  | 317   | 30  | 85  | 3.848  |
| Total  | 65 and up | 58.227 | 8.673  | 5.187 | 17.271 | 1.083 | 236 | 217 | 25.560 |
| Male   | Total     | 47.844 | 8.583  | 4.989 | 15.285 | 1.469 | 320 | 574 | 16.624 |
| Male   | Under 15  | 713    | 142    | 48    | 95     | 35    | 28  | 66  | 299    |
| Muško  | 15-19     | 471    | 129    | 31    | 65     | 18    | 3   | 28  | 197    |
| Male   | 20-29     | 1.051  | 268    | 73    | 234    | 67    | 8   | 42  | 359    |
| Male   | 30-49     | 7.638  | 1.280  | 597   | 3.182  | 400   | 67  | 140 | 1.972  |
| Male   | 50-59     | 10.431 | 2.121  | 808   | 3.982  | 355   | 80  | 108 | 2.977  |
| Male   | 60-64     | 6.363  | 1.242  | 603   | 2.286  | 157   | 21  | 63  | 1.991  |
| Male   | 65 and up | 21.177 | 3.401  | 2.829 | 5.441  | 437   | 113 | 127 | 8.829  |
| Female | Total     | 56.610 | 10.343 | 3.326 | 18.630 | 1.362 | 222 | 294 | 22.433 |
| Female | Under 15  | 512    | 143    | 41    | 74     | 24    | 14  | 27  | 189    |
| Female | 15-19     | 343    | 99     | 35    | 60     | 10    | 2   | 13  | 124    |
| Female | 20-29     | 735    | 217    | 43    | 118    | 40    | 8   | 27  | 282    |
| Female | 30-49     | 3.768  | 974    | 202   | 1.182  | 221   | 37  | 73  | 1.079  |
| Female | 50-59     | 7.953  | 2.150  | 352   | 2.948  | 261   | 29  | 42  | 2.171  |
| Female | 60-64     | 6.249  | 1.488  | 295   | 2.418  | 160   | 9   | 22  | 1.857  |
| Female | 65 and up | 37.050 | 5.272  | 2.358 | 11.830 | 646   | 123 | 90  | 16.731 |

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

Table 6.3. Number of pensioners in RS - December- disability pension

| 2013  | 2014  | 2015 | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  |
|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 41315 | 40781 | 4003 | 39378 | 38761 | 38301 | 37900 |

Source: The Pension and Disability Insurance Fund of the Republic of Srpska

Table 6.4. The amount of the average pension in RS (KM) - December - disability pension

| 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   | 2019   |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 296,92 | 307,93 | 310,88 | 309,67 | 317,95 | 331,06 | 343,06 |

Source: The Pension and Disability Insurance Fund of the Republic of Srpska

Table 6.5. Amount of relative poverty line in RS (KM)

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015   | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|--------|------|------|------|------|
|      |      | 362,34 |      |      |      |      |

Source: Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics, BiH Household Budget Survey, 2015

60,0% of median monthly equalized consumption expenditure in RS amounted to 362,34 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 RS relative poverty line with pension in RS

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 82%  | 85%  | 86%  | 85%  | 88%  | 91%  | 95%  |

Source: The Pension and Disability Insurance Fund of the Republic of Srpska; Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics, BiH Household Budget Survey 2015; Author's calculation

Table 6.7. Coverage of BiH relative poverty line (389,26 KM) with pension in RS

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 76%  | 79%  | 80%  | 80%  | 82%  | 85%  | 88%  |

Source: The Pension and Disability Insurance Fund of the Republic of Srpska; Agency for Statistics of BiH, BiH Household Budget Survey 2015; Author's calculation

## 7. THIRD AGE PERSONS

Table 7.1. Number of pensioners in RS - December

| 2013    | 2014    | 2015    | 2016    | 2017    | 2018    | 2019    |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 244.684 | 249.279 | 252.213 | 257.609 | 260.580 | 263.952 | 315.887 |

Source: The Pension and Disability Insurance Fund of the Republic of Srpska

Table 7.2. The amount of the average pension in RS (KM) - December

| 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   | 2019   |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 325,07 | 337,62 | 342,32 | 341,41 | 350,87 | 366,46 | 381,31 |

Source: The Pension and Disability Insurance Fund of the Republic of Srpska

Table 7.3. The height of the relative poverty line in RS (KM)

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015   | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|--------|------|------|------|------|
|      |      | 362,34 |      |      |      |      |

Source: Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics, BiH Household Budget Survey, 2015

60.0% of median monthly equalized expenditure for consumption in RS amounted to 362,34 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 RS-level relative poverty line with pensions in RS

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 90%  | 93%  | 94%  | 94%  | 97%  | 101% | 105% |

Source: The Pension and Disability Insurance Fund of the Republic of Srpska; Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics, BiH Household Budget Survey 2015; Author's calculation

Table 7.5. Coverage of BiH-level relative poverty line (389,26 KM ) with pensions in RS

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 84%  | 87%  | 88%  | 88%  | 90%  | 94%  | 98%  |

Source: The Pension and Disability Insurance Fund of the Republic of Srpska; Agency for Statistics of BiH, BiH Household Budget Survey 2015; Author's calculation

## 8. GENDER

Table 8.1. Structure of certified candidates in RS at 2018 General Election

| Authority                          | Female | Male | Gender structure % |      |
|------------------------------------|--------|------|--------------------|------|
|                                    |        |      | Female             | Male |
| President and Vice President of RS | 5      | 32   | 13,5               | 86,5 |
| National Assembly of the RS        | 605    | 833  | 42,1               | 57,9 |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, BiH General Election Statistics, 2018

Table 8.2. Gender structure of elected candidates in RS at 2018 General Election, by government levels

| Authority                          | Female | % Female | Male | % Male |
|------------------------------------|--------|----------|------|--------|
| President and Vice President of RS | 1      | 33,3     | 2    | 66,7   |
| National Assembly of the RS        | 16     | 19,3     | 67   | 80,7   |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, BiH General Election Statistics, 2018

Table 8.3. Judges in RS by type of institution and gender

|                                         | 2015            |               | 2016            |               | 2017            |               | 2018            |               |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
|                                         | Judges - Female | Judges - Male | Judges - Female | Judges - Male | Judges - Female | Judges - Male | Judges - Female | Judges - Male |
| Supreme Court of the Republic of Srpska | 13              | 9             | 14              | 8             | 15              | 8             | 16              | 7             |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH

Table 8.4. Prosecution in RS by type of institution and gender

|                                               | 2015                 |                    | 2016                 |                    | 2017                 |                    | 2018                 |                    |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
|                                               | Prosecutors - Female | Prosecutors - Male | Prosecutors - Female | Prosecutors - Male | Prosecutors - Female | Prosecutors - Male | Prosecutors - Female | Prosecutors - Male |
| Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Srpska | 2                    | 4                  | 6                    | 7                  | 5                    | 7                  | 5                    | 6                  |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH

Table 8.5. Workforce in RS (000) - Male

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 249  | 243  | 248  | 246  | 231  | 246  | 232  |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 8.6. Unemployed in RS (000) - Male

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 63   | 58   | 58   | 53   | 42   | 40   | 22   |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 8.7. Employees in RS (000) - Male

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 186  | 186  | 190  | 193  | 189  | 206  | 210  |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 8.8. Activity rate in RS - Male

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 57,5 | 57,3 | 57,5 | 57,9 | 56,7 | 56,9 | 55,3 |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 8.9. Employment rate in RS - Male

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 42,9 | 43,6 | 44,0 | 45,4 | 46,5 | 47,7 | 50,0 |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 8.10. Unemployment rate in RS - Male

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 25,3 | 23,8 | 23,4 | 21,6 | 18,0 | 16,3 | 9,5  |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 8.11. Workforce in RS (000) - Female

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 173  | 167  | 168  | 163  | 165  | 158  | 163  |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 8.12. Unemployed in RS (000) - Female

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 51   | 47   | 47   | 48   | 41   | (29) | 24   |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 8.13. Employees in RS (000) - Female

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 122  | 119  | 122  | 115  | 124  | 128  | 139  |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 8.14. Activity rate in RS - Female

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 37,8 | 37,2 | 37,1 | 36,9 | 38,3 | 36,5 | 40,1 |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 8.15. Employment rate in RS - Female

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 26,7 | 26,7 | 26,8 | 26,0 | 28,7 | 29,7 | 34,2 |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 8.16. Unemployment rate in RS – Female

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 29,5 | 28,4 | 27,7 | 29,5 | 25,1 | 18,5 | 14,7 |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 8.17. Employees in RS 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                            | 308   | 305   | 312   | 308   | 313   | 334   | 186   | 186   | 190   | 193   | 189   | 206   | 122    | 119   | 122   | 115   | 124   | 128   |
| Primary school and less          | 73    | 70    | 74    | 68    | 68    | 69    | 43    | 38    | 44    | 38    | 37    | 38    | 30     | 32    | 30    | (30)  | (31)  | 32    |
| High school and specialization   | 182   | 185   | 195   | 195   | 199   | 217   | 116   | 122   | 125   | 131   | 130   | 144   | 67     | 63    | 70    | 64    | 70    | 74    |
| University, master's degree, PhD | 53    | 50    | 43    | 45    | 46    | 48    | 28    | 25    | 22    | (23)  | (23)  | 25    | 26     | 25    | (21)  | 21    | (23)  | (23)  |
| 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          | 23,5  | 22,8  | 23,7  | 22,2  | 21,7  | 20,7  | 22,9  | 20,5  | 22,9  | 19,9  | 19,4  | 18,2  | 24,5   | 26,5  | 25,0  | 26,0  | 25,3  | 24,7  |
| High school and specialization   | 59,1  | 60,6  | 62,6  | 63,3  | 63,7  | 65,0  | 62,2  | 65,8  | 65,7  | 67,9  | 68,5  | 69,7  | 54,5   | 52,6  | 57,7  | 55,4  | 56,4  | 57,3  |
| University, master's degree, PhD | 17,3  | 16,5  | 13,7  | 14,6  | 14,6  | 14,3  | 14,8  | 13,7  | 11,3  | 12,2  | 12,1  | 12,0  | 21,1   | 20,9  | 17,3  | 18,6  | 18,3  | 18,0  |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

## 9. SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM

Table 9.1. Minor beneficiaries of social protection in RS

|                                          | 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   | 2019   |
|------------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| TOTAL                                    | 74.910 | 61.995 | 65.562 | 53.648 | 49.035 | 48.462 | 47.135 |
| Endangered by the family situation       | 38.754 | 31.939 | 32.208 | 27.191 | 25.524 | 23.006 | 20.523 |
| With disturbances in mental and physical | 5.109  | 5.370  | 5.450  | 5.906  | 5.731  | 5.850  | 5.666  |

|                                                     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| development                                         |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Socio-unacceptable behaviour                        | 3.038  | 2.277  | 2.055  | 1.779  | 1.716  | 1.247  | 1.138  |
| Mentally ill                                        | 179    | 145    | 145    | 196    | 189    | 203    | 222    |
| In a state of different social and protective needs | 25.855 | 19.906 | 23.157 | 17.581 | 14.692 | 16.388 | 16.972 |
| No specific category                                | 1.975  | 2.358  | 2.547  | 995    | 1.183  | 1.768  | 2.614  |

Source: Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics, Social protection 2016, Statistical Bulletin 14; Social protection 2020, Statistical Bulletin

Table 9.2. Adult beneficiaries of social protection in RS

|                                                      | 2013    | 2014    | 2015    | 2016    | 2017    | 2018    | 2019    |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| TOTAL                                                | 153.891 | 136.976 | 150.378 | 137.956 | 135.795 | 130.702 | 124.145 |
| Cost subsidising beneficiaries                       | 10.838  | 6.736   | 7.456   | 6.799   | 6.942   | 4.349   | 4.175   |
| With disturbances in mental and physical development | 12.585  | 13.035  | 13.639  | 16.241  | 19.574  | 21.354  | 20.446  |
| Socio-unacceptable behaviour                         | 3.150   | 3.052   | 2.897   | 2.798   | 2.700   | 2.806   | 2.500   |
| Mentally ill                                         | 2.920   | 3.360   | 3.396   | 3.512   | 3.979   | 4.019   | 4.200   |
| People who don't have enough income for subsistence  | 65.987  | 66.349  | 67.734  | 65.692  | 64.443  | 61.818  | 56.171  |
| In a state of different social and protective needs  | 57.282  | 43.217  | 53.956  | 41.761  | 36.712  | 34.926  | 35.061  |
| No specific category                                 | 1.129   | 1.227   | 1.300   | 1.153   | 1.445   | 1.430   | 1.592   |

Source: Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics, Social protection 2016, Statistical Bulletin 14; Social protection 2020, Statistical Bulletin

Table 9.3 Beneficiaries of social protection in RS - Total

|                                                                                          | 2013    | 2014    | 2015    | 2016    | 2017    | 2018    | 2019    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| TOTAL                                                                                    | 228.801 | 198.971 | 215.940 | 191.604 | 184.830 | 179.164 | 171.280 |
| Cost subsidising beneficiaries                                                           | 10.838  | 6.736   | 7.456   | 6.799   | 6.942   | 4.349   | 4.175   |
| Endangered by the family situation /People who do not have enough income for subsistence | 104.741 | 98.288  | 99.942  | 92.883  | 89.967  | 84.824  | 76.694  |
| With disturbances in mental and physical                                                 | 17.694  | 18.405  | 19.089  | 22.147  | 25.305  | 27.204  | 26.112  |

|                                                     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| development                                         |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Socio-unacceptable behaviour                        | 6.188  | 5.329  | 4.952  | 4.577  | 4.416  | 4.053  | 3.638  |
| Mentally ill                                        | 3.099  | 3.505  | 3.541  | 3.708  | 4.168  | 4.222  | 4.422  |
| In a state of different social and protective needs | 83.137 | 63.123 | 77.113 | 59.342 | 51.404 | 51.314 | 52.033 |
| No specific category                                | 3.104  | 3.585  | 3.847  | 2.148  | 2.628  | 3.198  | 4.206  |

Source: Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics, Social protection 2016, Statistical Bulletin 14; Social protection 2020, Statistical Bulletin

## 10. EDUCATION SYSTEM

Table 10.1. Enrolled in primary education in RS

| 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 96524 | 95223 | 93670 | 92312 | 90995 | 89630 | 87956 |

Source: Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics, Primary Education, school year 2015/2016, Statistical Bulletin 16; Primary Education 2019/2020, Statistical Bulletin

Table 10.2. Number of enrolled students in high schools in RS - Total

| 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 46421 | 43975 | 42089 | 41136 | 39831 | 38499 | 37206 |

Source: Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics, Secondary Education, school year 2016/2017, Statistical Bulletin 16; Secondary Education 2019/2020, Statistical Bulletin

Table 10.3. Number of enrolled students in high schools in RS - Female

| 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 23072 | 21926 | 21018 | 20681 | 20059 | 19324 | 18715 |

Source: Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics, Secondary Education, school year 2016/2017, Statistical Bulletin 16; Secondary Education 2019/2020, Statistical Bulletin

Table 10.4. Number of enrolled students at universities in RS - Total

| 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| 41988 | 39735 | 37390 | 34792 | 31850 | 29006 |      |

Source: Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics, Higher Education 2016, Statistical Bulletin 13; Higher Education 2019/2020, Statistical Bulletin

Table 10.5. Number of enrolled students at universities in RS - Female

| 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| 23327 | 22202 | 20982 | 19677 | 18110 | 16771 |      |

Source: Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics, Higher Education 2016, Statistical Bulletin 13; Higher Education 2019/2020, Statistical Bulletin

Table 10.6. Children in preschool education in RS

|                                                                                     | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018  | 2019  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| Total                                                                               | 7599 | 8166 | 9093 | 9953 | 1240 | 12156 | 13138 |
| Admitted to public pre-school institutions                                          | 6448 | 6522 | 6961 | 7454 | 7773 | 8553  | 9074  |
| Admitted to private pre-school institutions                                         | 1151 | 1644 | 2132 | 2499 | 2467 | 3603  | 260   |
| Total children with special needs admitted                                          | 138  | 195  | 156  | 154  | 184  | 194   | 187   |
| Children with special needs - Admitted to public pre-school institutions            | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -     | -     |
| Children with special needs - Admitted to private pre-school institutions           | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -     | -     |
| Total not admitted due to full capacity                                             | 2643 | 1539 | 2379 | 1716 | 1071 | 1331  | 1406  |
| They were not admitted to public preschool institutions due to the full capacity    | 2600 | 1394 | 2335 | 1599 | 934  | 1180  | 1146  |
| They were not admitted to private preschool institutions due to their full capacity | 43   | 145  | 44   | 117  | 137  | 151   | 260   |

Source: Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics, Preschool Education, school years 2011/2012-2015/2016, Statistical Bulletin 9; Preschool Education, school years 2015/2016-2019/2020, Statistical Bulletin

Table 10.7. RS - Gross added value for education and all activities and GDP, current prices

|                                                | 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018 <sup>1)</sup> |
|------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------------------|
| Education                                      | 4,3    | 4,3    | 4,2    | 4,1    | 3,7    | 3,5                |
| All activities - Total                         | 82,7   | 82,2   | 82,2   | 82,0   | 82,4   | 82,6               |
| Gross domestic product (GDP) in current prices | 100,00 | 100,00 | 100,00 | 100,00 | 100,00 | 100,00             |

Source: Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics: National accounts 2017, Statistical Bulletin 10; National accounts 2019, Statistical Bulletin

## 11. EMPLOYMENT

Table 11.1. Workforce in RS (000)

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 422  | 410  | 417  | 409  | 396  | 404  | 395  |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 11.2. Unemployed in RS (000)

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 114  | 105  | 105  | 101  | 83   | 69   | 46   |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 11.3. Employees in RS (000)

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 308  | 305  | 312  | 308  | 313  | 334  | 349  |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 11.4. Activity rate in RS

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 47,4 | 47   | 47,1 | 47,2 | 47,2 | 46,7 | 47,8 |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 11.5. Employment rate in RS

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 34,6 | 34,9 | 35,2 | 35,5 | 37,3 | 38,7 | 42,2 |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 11.6. Unemployment rate in RS

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 27,0 | 25,7 | 25,2 | 24,8 | 21   | 17,2 | 11,7 |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, Labour Force Survey in BiH, 2013-2019

Table 11.7. Registered employment in RS (000) - year-on-year average

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 239  | 242  | 246  | 253  | 261  | 266  | 272  |

Source: Labour and Employment Agency of BiH, May 2020

Table 11.8. Registered unemployment in RS (000) - year-on-year average

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 151  | 146  | 139  | 132  | 120  | 106  | 90   |

Source: Labour and Employment Agency of BiH, May 2020

## 12. HEALTH SYSTEM

Table 12.1. Health care in RS

| Indicator                           | 2013    | 2014    | 2015    | 2016    | 2017    | 2018    | 2019 |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|
| Population (mid-year estimate)      | 1425549 | 1421310 | 1415776 | 1157516 | 1153017 | 1147902 |      |
| Number of doctors                   | 2443    | 2471    | 2491    | 2530    | 2520    | 2588    |      |
| Number of dentists                  | 226     | 236     | 234     | 235     | 236     | 234     |      |
| Number of hospital beds             | 4565    | 4628    | 4651    | 4628    | 4577    | 4820    |      |
| No. of inhabitants per doctor       | 584     | 575     | 568     | 458     | 458     | 444     |      |
| No. of inhabitants per dentist      | 6308    | 6023    | 6050    | 4926    | 4886    | 4906    |      |
| No. of inhabitants per hospital bed | 312     | 307     | 304     | 250     | 252     | 238     |      |

Source: Analysis of Population Health in Republic of Srpska, 2013-2018, Public Health Institute of the Republic of Srpska

Table 12.2. Fertility rates in RS

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|      |      |      |      | 1.31 | 1.36 |      |

Table 12.3. Infant deaths per 1 000 live births in RS

| 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 3.5  | 3.1  | 2.8  | 2.4  | 2.8  | 1.8  |      |

Table 12.4. Spendings for health in RS

|                                                    | 2013    | 2014    | 2015*)  | 2016*)  | 2017     | 2018     | 2019 |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|----------|------|
| GDP                                                | 8792917 | 8887307 | 9205038 | 9630569 | 10077017 | 10679612 |      |
| Spendings for Health (% in GDP)                    | 10.6    | 10.7    | 10.7    | 11.4    | 10.6     | 11.2     |      |
| Population estimate                                | 1171179 | 1167082 | 1162164 | 1157516 | 1153017  | 1147902  |      |
| Spendings for health per capita (KM) <sup>1)</sup> | 767     | 785     | 817     | 883     | 903      | 961      |      |

Source: Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics, Health expenditure, Annual release No. 50/18,2018; Health expenditure, Annual Release No. 48/20, 2020; 2017, 2018, Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics

1) No investment

## 13. SOCIAL INCLUSION

Table 13.1. Access of household to services in RS, 2015 (%)

| Service/Access                                 | Difficult or very difficult | Easy or very easy | The service is not used |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Grocery store                                  | 25.7                        | 74.1              | :                       |
| Banking services                               | 41.2                        | 51.7              | 7.1                     |
| Postal services                                | 35.3                        | 61.4              | 3.3                     |
| Public transport                               | 31.4                        | 58                | 10.6                    |
| Primary Health Care Institution                | 38.3                        | 61.4              | :                       |
| Institution of preschool and primary education | 13.1                        | 29.5              | 57.4                    |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, BiH Household Budget Survey, 2015

Table 13.2. Indicators of material deprivation of households in RS, 2015 (%)

| Indicator                                                                                           | % of households |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Households having financial difficulties paying utility bills                                       | 24.5            |
| Households who cannot afford one week annual holiday away from home                                 | 75.4            |
| Households who cannot afford a meat, chicken or fish meal or vegetarian substitute every second day | 25.3            |
| Households who cannot afford unexpected expenses of 380 KM                                          | 74.3            |
| Households who cannot keeping the home adequately warm                                              | 11.5            |
| Households who do not own a car                                                                     | 60.7            |
| Households who do not own a washing machine                                                         | 9.6             |
| Households who do not own a TV                                                                      | 3.2             |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, BiH Household Budget Survey, 2015

Table 13.3. RS 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         | 1.6             |
| Pollution, grime or other environmental problems | 3.7             |
| Noise from neighbours or from the street         | 4.3             |
| Darkness, not enough day-light                   | 4.8             |
| Inadequate heating of housing units              | 11.5            |
| Rot in window frames or floor                    | 14.5            |
| Damp walls/foundations                           | 16.6            |
| Leaky roof                                       | 6.6             |

Source: Agency for Statistics of BiH, BiH Household Budget Survey, 2015

#### 14. CRIME

Table 14.1. Juvenile perpetrators of criminal offences in RS - Total

| Years     | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Reported  | 277  | 339  | 356  | 266  | 229  | 252  | 222  |
| Accused   | 67   | 42   | 53   | 65   | 42   | 48   | 55   |
| Convicted | 54   | 41   | 48   | 62   | 42   | 42   | 52   |

Source: Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics, Crime statistics: Juvenile perpetrators of criminal offences, Annual Releases 2013-2019

Table 14.2. Juvenile perpetrators of criminal offences in RS - Male

| Years     | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Reported  | 270  | 326  | 341  | 253  | 213  | 237  | 214  |
| Accused   | 67   | 42   | 50   | 64   | 40   | 46   | 54   |
| Convicted | 54   | 41   | 45   | 61   | 40   | 40   | 51   |

Source: Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics, Crime statistics: Juvenile perpetrators of criminal offences, Annual Releases 2013-2019

Table 14.3. Juvenile perpetrators of criminal offences in RS - Female

| Years     | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Reported  | 7    | 13   | 15   | 13   | 16   | 15   | 8    |
| Accused   | -    | -    | 3    | 1    | 2    | 2    | 1    |
| Convicted | -    | -    | 3    | 1    | 2    | 2    | 1    |

Source: Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics, Crime statistics: Juvenile perpetrators of criminal offences, Annual Releases 2013-2019

Table 14.4. Adult perpetrators of criminal offences in RS - Total (perpetrator known)

| <b>Years</b> | <b>2013</b> | <b>2014</b> | <b>2015</b> | <b>2016</b> | <b>2017</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>2019</b> |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Reported     | 8520        | 10284       | 10477       | 8266        | 8039        | 7716        | 7269        |
| Accused      | 4386        | 4354        | 4416        | 4263        | 3498        | 3478        | 3347        |
| Convicted    | 4081        | 4026        | 4091        | 3930        | 3128        | 3044        | 3001        |

Source: Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics, Crime statistics: Juvenile perpetrators of criminal offences, Annual Releases 2013-2019

Table 14.5. Adult perpetrators of criminal offences in RS - Male

| <b>Years</b> | <b>2013</b> | <b>2014</b> | <b>2015</b> | <b>2016</b> | <b>2017</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>2019</b> |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Reported     | 7865        | 9428        | 9510        | 7566        | 7148        | 6833        | 6475        |
| Accused      | 4096        | 4050        | 4116        | 3964        | 3211        | 3205        | 3095        |
| Convicted    | 3820        | 3733        | 3820        | 3651        | 2874        | 2815        | 2773        |

Source: Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics, Crime statistics: Juvenile perpetrators of criminal offences, Annual Releases 2013-2019

Table 14.6. Adult perpetrators of criminal offences in RS - Female

| <b>Years</b> | <b>2013</b> | <b>2014</b> | <b>2015</b> | <b>2016</b> | <b>2017</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>2019</b> |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Reported     | 655         | 856         | 967         | 700         | 891         | 883         | 794         |
| Accused      | 290         | 304         | 300         | 299         | 287         | 273         | 252         |
| Convicted    | 261         | 293         | 271         | 279         | 254         | 229         | 228         |

Source: Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics, Crime statistics: Juvenile perpetrators of criminal offences, Annual Releases 2013-2019