



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Organisation internationale pour les migrations (OIM)
Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)

Seeking Care, Support, and Justice for
Survivors of Conflict Related Sexual Violence
in BiH

FACT SHEET

September 2015

Milestones

1992-95	Bosnia and Herzegovina was the site of a large-scale conflict characterized by serious violations of International Humanitarian Law, including widespread rape and sexual violence
1993	The Statute of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) included rape as a crime against humanity, alongside other crimes such as torture and extermination, when committed in armed conflict and directed against a civilian population.
1994	The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) also declared rape to be a war crime and a crime against humanity.
2014	Reports and efforts of Mme Zainab Hawa Bangura (the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General on Violence in Conflict and the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women) highlighted the lack of widespread societal recognition in BiH of the harms suffered by women during the war and the denial of their existence. Her recommendations included the need for reparations
Until 2015	A national reparation strategy, which would ideally entail survivors of rape and other forms of sexual violence receiving restitution, rehabilitation, satisfaction, restoration of dignity and reputation, guarantees of non-repetition and prompt, fair and adequate compensation, remain absent.

Project Outline

Project Code	RP.0072.BA10
Period	September 2014 – September 2017
Donors	UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), UK Ministry of Defense (MOD), Global Peace and Security Fund of Canada, UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflicts.
Manager	Gianluca Rocco
Executing Agency	International Organization for Migration (IOM), UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Women



Partners Council of Ministers of BiH, the Governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brcko District, CSOs, Courts, Prosecutors' Offices.

Project Description

The project represents the combined efforts of IOM, UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women, and demonstrates the resolve of the entire UNCT to tackle this issue in a coordinated, systematic and multidisciplinary manner.

Objective

The overall objective of the project is to identify and address gaps in existing care, support, and justice systems, and create an effective, comprehensive and standardized approach to dealing with survivors of CRSV. Furthermore the project aims to gain an important insight into understanding not only the drivers of high rates of sexual violence in conflict situations, but also how sexual violence impedes the full restoration of peace in post-conflict societies.

The project has three main components:

- Data collection, research and mapping of needs and capacities.
- Enhancement and expansion of CRSV-sensitive service provision.
- Stigma reduction through advocacy and sensitisation.

IOM's objective

IOM aims to:

- Assist the BiH Governmental stakeholders to fulfil their obligations under international law through facilitating a reparations process in BiH, in order to ensure a sustainable and durable solution to the issue of CRSV in BiH.
- Facilitate and mediate so that this comprehensive administrative reparations programme. Tailored to the BiH context, provides equal access to material, symbolic, collective and individual benefits for all survivors of CRSV, based on their rights as victims of a gross human rights violation and regardless of current or former place of residence.

IOM's Activities

- 1) Assessment of all known CRSV relevant data holders and service providers in order to lay the groundwork for a reparations package and ensure that next steps could be targeted and evidence based.
- 2) Presentation and publication of the final report and recommendations from the CRSV data holder assessment.
- 3) Development of a training programme on linkages between service provision and reparations efforts for survivors of sexual violence,
- 4) Delivery of trainings for relevant Governmental (both State and Entity), civil society and UN stakeholders
- 5) Facilitation and support of various aspects of reparations processes, including the right to reparations, with a particular focus on CRSV, through consultative roundtables and workshop.

Project Implementation to date

- 1) The conducted assessment of data holders and service providers included the review of all available sources that quantify CRSV survivors and the analysis of services capacities, infrastructures and legislative gaps. The IOM component of the research focused on rights to reparations and information to assist in facilitation of such a process. The IOM field research consisted of data collection from all known relevant dataholders.
- 2) Initial meetings have been held with the relevant governmental stakeholders to inform them of IOM's activities and in order for representatives to be appointed for participation in the working groups. Working group conceptualisation of the reparations models and the strategising of their implementation have been informed (amongst other factors) by the findings of the IOM inception phase research.
- 3) Training programs have been developed for each group of relevant stakeholders on the concept of reparations and processes and delivery, based on relevant prior IOM research and IOM comparative experiences.
- 4) Trainings are currently in process, and are conducted for representatives of all relevant institutions (both State and civil society) in order to build knowledge and skills prior to the conceptualization and development of a status recognition procedure and reparations model for survivors.
- 5) Starting from November, a series of consultative thematic roundtables and workshops on policy, legal, technical and social aspects of reparations for CRSV survivors will be organized to conceptualise feasible solutions toward establishment and implementation of a comprehensive reparations scheme tailored for survivors of CRSV in BiH. Additional trainings will be incorporated as and when required. Participants will include state institutions, political decision making levels and civil society. Workshops and roundtables will lead to a single reparations model being designed by the working group and agreed upon by all relevant stakeholders, assisted through inputs and feedback from civil society through regular meetings between the CSO representatives and a wider pool of CSOs.
- 6) Once a model has been agreed upon by all stakeholders, workshops will be held with relevant stakeholders regarding legislation, the institutional set-up of the body that will be responsible for reparations, as well as its operational functioning.