



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

**Capacity building of BH Institutions to
Address and Respond to Mental Health Issues
Amongst Defence Personnel in Bosnia and
Herzegovina - PREVENTIVA**

FACT SHEET

March 2014

Milestones

November 2012	Joint assessment was conducted by the Nordic Baltic Initiative (NBI) countries, Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BH), Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of Republika Srpska, Ministry of Health of Federation BH, and IOM
February 2013	First Conference on the Project activities organised in Denmark
June 2013	Second Conference on the Project activities organised in BH
September 2013	Memorandum of understanding signed by the Veteran Centre Denmark and the Ministry of Defence of BH
November 2013	The First Financial agreement between IOM and the Ministry of Defence of Norway signed, allowing IOM to implement Project activities of the First Phase
December 2013	The Second Financial agreement between IOM and Ministry of Defence of Denmark signed, allowing IOM to begin the Project activities of the Second Phase

Project Outline

Project code	MP.0156
Period	2013 - 2015
Donors	Denmark, Kingdom of Norway
Coordinators	Danijela Torbica
Executing Agency	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Partner Institution	Ministry of Defence (MoD)/Armed Forces (AF) of BH, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of Republika Srpska and Ministry of Health of Federation BH

Strategic Objectives

To support the ongoing BH efforts in establishing a sustainable systematic response to mental health issues of current and discharged personnel of the Armed Forces of BH, also in relation to their deployment in peacekeeping missions.

Project Description

This initiative will apply international models developed and applied by the NBI countries to support the MoD in the design and implementation of a systematic and sustainable response to the potential negative impacts of past and present war-related experiences on the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of discharged and active duty staff of the MoD, as well as those involved in peacekeeping missions. The system established through this intervention will be embedded within the human resources management system of the MoD and linked to the already existing civilian network to ensure self-sustainability, avoid duplications, and ensure cost-effectiveness. This intervention will ensure that MoD staff affected by mental health problems related to post-war and service related activities, including deployment in peacekeeping missions, are identified and referred to relevant institutions for a treatment.

Furthermore, this initiative should be seen in a broader regional and Euro-Atlantic integration perspective. Project partners have recognised that supporting the defence sector reforms in BH and the establishment of a modern and NATO compliant system for ensuring adequate Mental Health and Traumatic Stress (MHTS) support to MoD staff (particularly in relation to peacekeeping missions) will also contribute to security and stability. In addition, building the capacities of the MoD in BH shall reinforce the role of national institutions within the country, as well as the region. A competent and skilled MoD of BH would be capable of supporting and assisting other countries in the region in developing their own systems and enhancing the process of regional cooperation, an essential element for attaining regional stabilisation.