



Bosnia & Herzegovina

Country Fact Sheet

The MDG-F in Bosnia and Herzegovina	
Joint Programmes: 4	Total Budget: USD 23,948,728
Joint Programmes Information	
Joint Programme	<i>"Improving Cultural Understanding in Bosnia and Herzegovina"</i>
Thematic Window	Culture and Development
Budget	USD 8,000,000
Participating Agencies	UNESCO, UNDP, UNICEF.
Participating Government Agencies	Ministry of Civil Affairs (MoCA), Federal Ministry of Culture and Sports, Ministry of Education and Culture, 10 Cantonal Ministries of Education, Brcko District Department for Education, Agency for Pre-primary, Primary and Secondary Education, Pedagogical Institutes, Primary Schools, Universities; Institute for Education UK, Scierter Italy and Centre for Education Policy Serbia, ETF, CIVITAS BiH, EU TAC, Partner MCA; Municipalities of Bijeljina, Rudo, Jajce, Prijedor, Bihac, Gradiska, Srebrenik, Novo Sarajevo, Tesanj and Sokolac, Municipal Culture centres.
Dates	05 December 2008 – 30 Junio 2012
Regions of Intervention	National level, and Bihac, Bijeljina, Gradiska, Jajce, Novo Sarajevo, Prijedor, Rudo, Tesanj, Sokolac, Srebrenik.
Programme in Brief: The joint programme, Improving Cultural Understanding in Bosnia and Herzegovina, was designed to improve cross-cultural understanding in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and promote the country's unique multicultural identity. In support of this overall objective, areas of focus included the policy/legal framework in the cultural and educational sectors, community-based interventions to increase cross-cultural understanding, promotion of the Cultural Industry Sector, and promotion of BiH's unique multicultural identity. Using a participatory approach to guide interventions at policy and municipal levels, the Joint Programme	

maximized the economic and social benefits of cultural development and made a contribution to the reconciliation process. The relevant Millennium Development Goals that were being targeted were MDG's 1, 2, 3, and 8.

Main Achievements¹

- An initial overview was undertaken through the mapping the culture and existing statistical data; together with a survey on business entities which relate to cultural industries and a survey on participation in culture. Methodology for collection of data for cultural statistics was prepared and adopted officially. Cultural web-portals (websites) were created through a separate working group in order to be aligned with each other (state and entity level) and relevant for larger audiences. An Action Plan for Implementation of Strategy of Cultural Policy in Bosnia and Herzegovina was also devised and officially adopted by the Council of Ministers, as well as the entity ministries and all cantonal ministries of culture. Extensive capacity development training was undertaken.
- An analysis of the existing curricula and school practice from intercultural perspective was undertaken, together with mapping of teachers' competencies for intercultural and inclusive education. UNESCO Conventions ratified by Bosnia and Herzegovina were publicised and a preliminary list of intangible cultural heritage was devised for the first time. The Programme also developed sets of educational materials (manuals and tool kits for intercultural education) for teachers, children, parents, trainers and other publications. Translation of UNESCO Guidelines for Intercultural Education was undertaken and the programme developed and implemented cultural policies and legal frameworks.
- Over 40 projects were selected to be implemented with the goal to improve cross-cultural understanding in local communities. Pupil exchange between different communities was facilitated and the important KAP benchmarking study was initiated. This Survey started in December 2009, aiming at establishing the situation in terms of knowledge, attitudes and practices in cross-cultural relations and preparing a campaign for changing the mindset which would contribute to improvements in cross-cultural relations in line with methodology applied in many countries with such needs.
- Projects were implemented which encourage the role of culture in economic development. In the NGO sector thematic windows included (i) supporting innovation in handicrafts, (ii) improving access to culture, (iii) cultural tourism, and (iv) arts for understanding. Substantial training was given to encourage better projects and to enable sustainability in local civil society organisations and municipalities regarding their local strategies and funding applications³. In addition a series of trainings were provided with the focus on enhancing capacities of local participants from crafts sector in selected municipalities.
- An analysis of media on cultural sensitivity was undertaken and a methodology for media analysis was drawn up. The analysis was seen as a precondition for quality preparation of training for capacity development of media professionals, which will enable government institutions to gain better understanding of cultural sensitivity in reporting and to record changes (and possibly progress) in cultural sensitivity during reporting. A campaign promoting

¹ Travers R (2012) Independent Final Evaluation Report: *Improving Cultural Understanding in Bosnia and Herzegovina*

	<p>cross-cultural sensitivity in education sphere was also initiated. The goal of this campaign for changing mindsets was to bring about positive changes in cross-cultural understanding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important symbols of multiculturalism in Bosnia and Herzegovina were restored (i.e. Ferhadija Mosque in Banja Luka, the Orthodox Cathedral in Mostar, the Monastery Plehan near Derventa)
More information	http://www.mdgfund.org/program/improvingculturalunderstandingbosniaandherzegovina
Joint Programme	<i>“Securing Access to Water through Institutional Development and Infrastructure in Bosnia and Herzegovina”</i>
Thematic Window	Democratic Economic Governance
Budget	USD 4,449,145
Participating Agencies	UNDP, UNICEF.
Participating Government Agencies	11 associated water utility companies, 13 participating municipalities, BiH Directorate for Economic Planning BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs, BiH Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations; Budimo aktivni, FBiH Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, FBiH Ministry of Labour and Social Policy Hydro-Engineering Institute Sarajevo (HEIS), Initiative for Better and Humane Inclusion (IBHI), Nasa djeca, Prism research , RS Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, RS Ministry of Health and Social Welfare Svjetionik Zdravo da ste.
Dates	25 November 2009 – 31 May 2013
Regions of Intervention	Federation of BiH: Bihac, Bosanski Petrovac, Gracanica, Kladanj, Stolac, Neum Republic of Srpska: Petrovac/Drinic, Petrovo, Rudo, Visegrad, City of Ist. Sarajevo (Istocna Ilidza, Istocno Novo Sarajevo, Trnovo).
	<p>Programme in Brief: To address the objectives of this thematic window within the context of BH, the proposed joint program must focus on 3 levels of stakeholders: the rights holders (the citizenry), the service providers (utilities), and the duty-bearers (governments). The general problems in the area of water supply require a program addressing the issues of public participation in decision making, capacities, and monitoring and analysing data at multiple levels. The following 3 objectives are designed to achieve this necessary synergy: 1. to improve the inclusion of citizens in decision-making processes; 2. to improve the economic governance of water utilities while sensitizing consumers to pay their bills; and 3. to increase the capacities of governments for evidence-based policy making and resource planning. The expected benefits will contribute to the achievement of BH UNDAF Outcome 2, “Improved access to and quality of basic education, health and social protection services”, and MDGs 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7.</p>
	<p>Main Achievements²</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The JP helped to develop the format for Multisector Municipal Boards (MMBs), later formalized as Commissions for the Promotion of Social Protection (Commissions hereafter) which bring together utility and social service providers and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) at the partner municipalities. This provided a forum for a better mutual understanding

² Melikyan, L. (2013) Independent Final Evaluation Report: *Securing Access to Water through Institutional Development and Infrastructure in Bosnia and Herzegovina*.

of the needs and constraints of various stakeholders, helping to develop and implement actions which assisted the vulnerable households, including in relation to their access to and affordability of water services.

- Trainings provided to the Commissions in Human Rights Based Approaches (HRBA) - based analysis of social protection issues, their capacity building, as well as the support for the development of their Actions plans and funding of selected measures from these were all important steps in the institutionalization of the model as a whole.
- Through the work of the Commissions, the water utilities got more exposure to the needs of the poor and the residents; the latter obtained better insights over the work of the water utilities. While the Commissions and the Action Plans are multisectoral, water sector issues found important reflection in them. Already in 4 municipalities almost 100 vulnerable households received assistance (a) with their water bills, through municipal budget funded subventions, and (b) with getting connections to centralized water supply; the latter is more relevant for the areas populated with Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). This was facilitated also by capacity building of the water utilities (WU) and training (through peer-to-peer (P2P) experience sharing and classroom training) of the staff working both at the companies and municipalities (communal service departments), water supply studies and small infrastructure projects in each municipality. This laid the foundation for performance improvements of the WUs. As for the water supply studies, they helped both the WUs and municipalities in their strategic planning related to water supply and also proved to be useful in approaching International Financing Institutions (IFIs) for funding. The package of JP assistance benefitted the general population in the localities, and had a differentiated positive impact on the vulnerable households.
- With JP support, the performance of the local governance structures for social protection were improved, through developing and testing the vulnerability criteria and establishment of referral mechanisms for the protection of the rights of vulnerable households among the social and health protection and education sectors in each municipality. The development of the vulnerability criteria was an important testing ground in improving social assistance systems in the country and feeds into current reforms plans.
- JP helped to establish the Department on Water Supply at MOFTER and supported it with basic capacity building.

More information	http://www.mdgfund.org/program/securingaccesswaterthroughinstitutionaldevelopmentandinfrastructure
Joint Programme	<i>“Mainstreaming environmental governance: linking local and national action in Bosnia and Herzegovina”</i>
Thematic Window	Environment and Climate Change
Budget	USD 5,499,863
Participating Agencies	UNDP, FAO, UNEP, UNESCO, UNV
Participating	Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations BiH, Ministry of Spatial

Government Agencies	planning, Construction and Environment of RS BiH, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management RS BiH, Ministry of Environment and Tourism FBiH, Municipalities, Cantons, Civil Society Organizations.
Dates	10 December 2009 – 31 May 2013
Regions of Intervention	30 municipalities.
Programme in Brief: The programme has addressed and overcome barriers to delivering environmental services and management at the local level in BiH. Interventions centered around providing capacity for developing Local Environmental Action Plans for 40 municipalities, providing seed funding for local service delivery priorities, raising the awareness and national level support for environmental action through an environmental innovation fund, and systems for capturing environmental data. The programme strengthened management of environmental resources and service delivery through improving local environmental governance and developing replicable models for local environmental planning. The knowledge generated will inform and support national planning and policy.	
Main achievements³	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support has been provided for Local Environmental Action Plans, leading to 37 new Action Plans to underpin the development of local environmental governance capacity and introduce planning methodologies in municipalities. 527 members from Local Action Groups were trained in the LEAP process. Altogether 12,418 people (LEAP Coordinators, Local Action Groups, consultants, NGOs, public/private companies, citizens, etc.) have been participating in the various LEAP activities through public meetings and questionnaire surveys. • Municipalities have demonstrated their effective resource management as partners in the micro-capital grants scheme, distributing 19 grants (up to 50% of the project cost) in support of actions identified in the Plans to solve the most pressing problems. • Local level developments, lessons and best practice have been used to influence policy development and mobilize awareness on environmental issues. Nationally, the complex legal and institutional background for environmental governance has been reviewed and a 'road map' prepared; a Designated National Authority for the Kyoto Protocol established, and a gap analysis for an Environmental Information System prepared for BiH's future environmental administration. 	
More information	http://www.mdgfund.org/content/environmentandclimatechange
Joint Programme	<i>"BiH Youth Employability and Retention Programme"</i>
Thematic Window	Youth, Employment and Migration

³ Aigner D (2013) Independent Joint Programme Final Evaluation: *Mainstreaming Environmental Governance - Linking local and national action.*

Budget	USD 5,999,720
Participating Agencies	UNDP, UNFPA, IOM, UNICEF.
Participating Government Agencies	Ministry of Civil Affairs, Ministry of Security, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, and partners at entity, cantonal and municipal levels.
Dates	08 January 2010 – 30 June 2013
Regions of Intervention	National

Programme in Brief: The employment situation for young people in Bosnia Herzegovina is extremely challenging with the highest youth unemployment rate in Europe. The country is still marked by the residual tensions of war and the transition economy is below potential. Although employment prospects are becoming more favorable, the large number of unemployed youth is both a challenge and an unutilized resource for development. The consequences of not addressing the issue include youth apathy and degradation of unused skills. The Youth Employability and Retention Programme aimed to address high youth unemployment working closely with Government, the private sector and civil society to improve the employability of BiH youth while providing new entry points to the labour market. Internal and external migration support was developed to optimize the potential of migration as an individual employment-seeking strategy which can alleviate local labour market pressures.

Main Achievements⁴

- In the course of the YERP the BiH policy makers and administrators have been provided with a large number of innovative tools and models to actively fight youth unemployment (MDG 1) and improve education (MDG 2) by developing evidence-based policies and measures.
- Counselling of youth and career planning has helped to make young people more self-responsible for their own future and more realistic and pro-active in approaching the labour market. The broader population, particularly young people, is becoming better informed about the potential risks of migration. Equal participation between men and women in all training, courses, and educational programmes contributes directly to the achievement of MDG 3.
- Improved knowledge about life -skills based education, essential for tackling youth unemployment, migration and improved social protection. Key competencies for an improved BiH education system were defined and analysed to improve teaching practices and manuals.
- Development of early school leavers' data bases in the YERP assisted municipalities.
- Created and equipped Centres for Information, Counselling and Training (CISOs) in selected locations and in building capacity of CISO officials to provide more efficient and individualised services to disadvantaged youth, to better understand their problems and needs, to integrate youth employment in municipal targets, and to build consensus and a solid base for integrating CISOs in the activities of Public Employment Service (PES). Employment projects and training activities for final beneficiaries (IT, foreign languages, vocational and education training) together with training for additional strengthening capacities of CISO employees are on - going or have already been completed.

⁴ Aigner, D (2013) Independent Final Evaluation Report: *BiH Youth Employability and Retention Programme*

- Direct counseling and training services for final beneficiaries are underway and the large number of beneficiaries across all activities confirm the usefulness and acceptance of YERP services. The supported CISOs are fulfilling their triple mission (information, counseling and training) in order to increase employability prospects of unemployed youth.
- Mapping of practices of migration monitoring and draft strategy and action plan for migration monitoring in BiH and developing methodological solutions for the creation and harmonisation of migration statistics in BiH in line with EUROSTAT recommendations. Institutional capacities and systems to reduce irregular migration and introduce circular migration schemes have been effectively developed or strengthened.
- Voluminous information and awareness activities delivered in order to inform young people about the opportunities for legal migration but also the risks of illegal migration.

More information

<http://www.mdgfund.org/program/bihyouthemployabilityandretentionprogramme>