



ASOCIJACIJA XY

# ANNUAL REPORT

2014

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ASOCIJACIJA XY

A Member Association of



# INTRODUCTION

The year 2014, which marked 13 years of our existence and activity, brought new challenges, as well as numerous victories which follow the mission and vision of Association XY. Above all, the number 13 was inspirational and productive for us, and therefore it is my pleasure to present the Annual Report of Association XY for 2014.

It makes us proud and happy to have the opportunity to show the public the achievements of our Association in a wide range of action and activities through three main program areas which make XY a whole: sexual and reproductive health and rights, healthy lifestyles, and the Mental Health Project in B&H. We were not lacking in successes and achievements this time. Just like in previous years.

In 2014, we hosted the International Planned Parenthood Federation Regional Conference, which held a meeting in the capital of B&H, where almost 100 delegates and volunteers gathered from almost every European country which belongs to the European Network of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF EN). Through our Youth Friendly Health Center, we continued to provide counseling and gynecological/dermatovenerological services to young people in Sarajevo and Banja Luka, and the number of our clients from the most vulnerable groups is on the rise, as they perceive Association XY as a true friend, and a reliable and professional partner.

We provided support in strengthening the capacity of elementary schools in conducting lessons in the *Healthy Lifestyles* subject through the implementation of educational and advocacy sessions for teachers. What makes us especially happy and motivates us in further work, are the results of research conducted among students in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of the Sarajevo Canton. The results of the research confirmed our expectations – over 85% of students like to read and learn about the content which is covered by the subject *Healthy Lifestyles*.

Towards the end of 2014, the documents *Strategy on rare diseases in FB&H* and the *Program for rare diseases* were published and adopted by the FB&H Government and the RS Government. Both documents represent a turning point in solving the issue of rare diseases in B&H and a basis for ensuring the institutional framework and mechanism for quality health care of those living with rare diseases. In addition, the capacities of the Coalition of Health Care Organizations of B&H and other civil society organizations were strengthened.

As a non-governmental organization, we made significant efforts in solving the issue of human trafficking through the strengthening of cross-sectoral support for victims of human trafficking in cooperation with the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which represents another positive practice example of quality cooperation between gover-

mental and non-governmental institutions and organizations.

We also continued with activities aimed at accelerating the achievement of goals defined by the national Action Plan of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), which was adopted by the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and as such the national priorities were formally defined, many of which represent an integral part of the mission of Association XY.

Through the Mental Health Project in B&H, we are implementing project activities in three different strategic areas which complement each other: 1. Strengthening the management capacities of stakeholders in the field of mental health care in the community, 2. Improving access to and the quality of mental health services in the community and 3. Reducing discrimination against persons with mental health issues, with the goal of contributing to the betterment of the general well-being of persons with mental disorders and those who are at a risk of developing a mental disorder.

We have also devoted our attention, knowledge, time and love to humanitarian action. In cooperation with UNFPA B&H, we secured our place at the prestigious Kid's Festival, where, due to the occurrence of natural disasters, we held an interactive workshop on the topic of „*Children and floods*“, which attracted a lot of attention from many participants, and over 400 children and young people attended sessions on the topic of children's health during and after the floods.

Finally, I would like to point out that the most important part of every organization are the people who work for it, which is also the case with Association XY, and it would be difficult to imagine all the victories without them. I thank all employees, volunteers and associates on their committed work which contributed to the achievement of results which are presented on the pages that follow. A big thank you to our donors, governmental institutions and partners who recognize the quality of our work and provide generous assistance and support. We promise to continue with our shared successes with the same enthusiasm in the years that follow. We remain aware of the numerous challenges that are before us, but we also remain persistent and determined in building a society which values and protects the health and rights of everyone, promoting healthy lifestyles and zero tolerance towards any kind of stigma and discrimination.

**Emina Osmanagić**  
**Executive Director of Association XY**





## ASSOCIATION XY HOSTED THE IPPF EN REGIONAL COUNCIL

**In the period between 26 and 28 June 2014, Association XY was the host of a three-day conference of the International Planned Parenthood Federation Regional Council, which was held in the capital of B&H.**

During the conference, the Regional Council brought together almost 100 volunteers and delegates from countries which are part of the European Network of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF EN). On this occasion, the delegates of the Member Associations of IPPF EN chose the new members of the Management Board of the Federation, and discussed the modalities of management. In addition, there were discussions about the sexual exploitation of children with the speakers from the European Council and the Technological Educational Institute of Crete (Greece).

IPPF, which was founded in the early 50s of the previous century, is one of the largest non-governmental organizations in the world. Today, the IPPF family consists of 152 Member Associations across 172 countries. The European Network currently consists of 39 associations from the region of the European Union (EU). The members of the EN are candidate countries and potential candidate countries for EU accession, as well as Russia and Central Asian countries. Association XY, i.e. B&H, is part of this network.

IPPF advocates for a world where each woman, man and young person has access to information and services in the field of sexual and reproductive health, a world where sexuality is recognized as a natural and valuable aspect of life, as well as a basic human right, and a world where every choice is respected, with no place for stigma and discrimination.







## 5A (ADOLESCENTS, AIDS, ABORTION, ADVOCACY, ACCESS)

**Duration:** January 2014 – December 2016  
**Donor:** International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF EN)  
**Location:** Bosnia and Herzegovina

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

For over ten years, Association XY has been strategically dedicated to planned and continuous action in the advancement of a friendly approach when it comes to offering sexual and reproductive health services and rights for youth and vulnerable groups. The project has been guided by a rights-based approach, which acknowledges universal values, standards and principles of action which bring together parents, teachers, youth and professionals with the aim of acknowledging the importance of sexual and reproductive health in the context of defining the priorities of decision makers in B&H. After a decade of work in the field of sexual and reproductive health through five fields: adolescents, AIDS, abortion, advocacy and access, Association XY focused on advancing the aspect of access through online services in 2014.

### THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

The volunteers of Association XY marked the year of 2014. Apart from supporting all the planned activities and participating in the race to achieve the set XY goals, this year their wishes and needs were recognized and fulfilled through the creation of the Statute of the YSAFE network, the Rules on volunteering and the Volunteer profiles on the website of the Association ([www.xy.com.ba](http://www.xy.com.ba)), which at the same time represent some of the most significant activities and results.

In the heart of the YSAFE network, there are still ambitious, committed and hard-working young people who dedicated their time to learning new things through education in the subject of advocacy in a training session which was based on the „Want to change the world? Here's how...” tool. After the training was held, the volunteers and the Association XY team created a joint *Advocacy Strategy*, where the roles of youth were clearly defined, as well as the opportunities that are at their disposal.

In addition, during 2014 educational sessions were held for the population of juvenile prisoners in Tuzla and Zenica. Two three-day training sessions of peer education were held successfully for juvenile prisoners, with the goal of enabling young people to conduct peer education in correctional institutions with other convicted persons, but also to raise awareness among youth in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights and the adoption of healthy lifestyles. For these training sessions, special educational boards were developed as additional tools which enabled convicted persons to relay information in their environment in a simpler and more effective manner. The training sessions further strengthened cooperation between Association XY and the correctional facilities in Tuzla and Zenica.

Within the project, cooperation with Health Care Centers in the Sarajevo Canton was also strengthened, with the aim of improving family planning and prevention of unsafe abortion services, where a revised brochure on the importance of the freedom to choose and make a decision about abortion was distributed.

All of the above was further enriched by ensuring access to high quality and friendly services in Youth Friendly Health Centers in Sarajevo and Banja Luka, where youth, vulnerable groups and persons with learning disabilities were provided with 5.627 counseling services, 685 gynecological services and 80 dermatovenerology services. Counseling services were provided on the premises of Association XY, via Skype, Facebook, telephone and email. A new service, i.e. counseling via an online tool on the website for a direct conversation with peer counselors further enriched the spectrum of services that Association XY provides for youth, as well as for the overall population of B&H.

# 2

## IMPROVEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES FOR YOUTH IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

**Duration:** August 2011 - December 2014  
**Donor:** International Planned  
Parenthood Federation (IPPF)  
**Location:** Sarajevo and Banja Luka, B&H

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

The project involved the problem of access of adolescents and youth to reliable, high quality and comprehensive information and (health) services when it comes to their sexual and reproductive health and rights. There were three key segments that were defined through the project. The first segment was **Providing Health and Non-Health Related Services to Youth via Youth Friendly Health Centers** in Sarajevo and Banja Luka. These centers are recognized by our beneficiaries as confidential places where they feel safe, are treated with respect and where service providers have a friendly approach which is adapted to their needs. Psychological counseling services are available in Sarajevo and Banja Luka, and in YFHC XY Sarajevo gynecological and dermatovenerological check-ups are also available. All services are free of charge for the clients, and we are especially pleased that our centers have been recognized by particularly vulnerable youth from rural areas, the MSM population (men having sex with men), victims of domestic violence, and persons with disabilities. The other segment of the project, which relates to **increasing access to education on sexual and reproductive health** has been successful, when we take into account that the subject *Healthy Lifestyles* (where one of the subject areas is reproductive health) has already been part of the plan and program of elementary schools in the Sarajevo Canton for a second year. Finally, the third segment of the project aimed to **influence changes in policies** which prioritize SRH needs of youth as part of the health care system in B&H.





## THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

During 2014, we continued to provide *counseling services and gynecological/dermatovenerological services* to youth in Sarajevo and Banja Luka, and our number of clients from the most vulnerable groups was on the rise. Our young volunteers have been creating the magazine „*Love&Sex*“ for a third year in a row and it has become known among young people for its unique content. *Communication with young people* is very important to Association XY, which can be observed through increased interaction via the XY webpage and social networks, as well as through the increase in the number of Facebook and Twitter members of Association XY. With our young activists at the forefront, the XY team marked *World Contraception Day, World Day against Trafficking in Persons and World AIDS Day*, when with the support and cooperation of our partners we reminded the public of the state of affairs in our country when it comes to accessing modern contraception, the field of human trafficking and HIV/AIDS, and we called for a discussion on these topics.

With the aim of promoting the importance of the subject *Healthy Lifestyles*, which was introduced as an alternative subject in elementary schools in the Sarajevo Canton in the 2013/2014 school year, trainers from Association XY carried out a number of *educational sessions for parents from the Sarajevo Canton*. The sessions were held with the support of the Parents' Council of the Sarajevo Canton, and we noted positive reactions and approval of the parents in relation to the new school subject.

With the support of UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund), our team organized *8 training sessions for 168 elementary school teachers in the Sarajevo Canton*. The facilitators at these training sessions were representatives of the Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of the Sarajevo Canton and the training team of Association XY. Teachers expressed their satisfaction with the content and quality of the training sessions in evaluation forms.

The Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of the Sarajevo Canton provided great support during the implementation of activities related to the introduction and promotion of the Healthy Lifestyles subject and we continued our excellent cooperation in 2014 through regular contact and meetings.

To conclude, *the advocating capacities of young people, i.e. members of the YSAFE B&H network of Association XY were strengthened*, and they made their own action plan for advocacy in the field of sexual and reproductive health and healthy lifestyles, which will be implemented in 2015. The Association XY team truly appreciates the effort and commitment of its volunteers, educators, and trainers and we take this opportunity to thank them for their long-standing support.





## FAMILY PLANNING IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA- STRATEGIC CHOICES FOR THE FUTURE

**Duration:** September 2014 – December 2014  
**Donor:** UNFPA B&H (United Nations Population Fund B&H office)  
**Location:** Sarajevo and Banja Luka

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

In partnership with UNFPA B&H, Association XY created and implemented two round tables on the topic of „Family planning in B&H – strategic choices for the future“. One round table was held in November in Sarajevo, and the second one was held in December in Banja Luka. Both round tables were led by international consultant Dr. Mihai Horga from the East European Institute for Reproductive Health, with the support of two local experts - Dr. Aida Pilav, Assistant to the Minister for Public Health, Monitoring and Evaluation at the FB&H Ministry of Health and Dr. Jasminka Vučković, the Head of the Primary Health Care Department at the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of Republika Srpska, who provided expert support in the preparation of the round tables and the interpretation of previously created documents and adopted strategies and policies, namely:





- The UNFPA Program document;
- The Policy on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in B&H from 2012;
- The Strategy for Improvement of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2010 – 2019;
- The Republic of Srpska Sexual and Reproductive Health Improvement Policy (2012-2017);
- The Recommendations for training in the field of reproductive health and family planning in B&H from 2013;
- The Research report on the segmentation of the contraception market in B&H, September 2014.

The round tables were held with the aim of sensitizing the participants, creating guided discussions and gathering input on the future of family planning within integrated services for sexual and reproductive health. Participants of the round tables were representatives of key institutions from both entities, including ministries of health, the Department for Health Care of Women and Maternity of the Sarajevo Canton, the Department of Public Health, quality and accreditation agencies in health care, university clinical centers, hospitals, medical centers, civil society and UNFPA.

**THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS**

The purpose of both round tables was to involve participants from various governmental institutions, professionals, as well as representatives of the non-governmental sector, in identifying the problems and shortcomings of the existing family planning system through an analysis of existing strategic documents and the results of research in relation to family planning, with the goal of creating a quality action plan for the advancement of the family planning mechanism in B&H. The round tables had the same result, and the need for establishing an advisory group for sexual and reproductive health at the ministries of health of both entities (Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska) was identified.





## ABOUT THE PROJECT

The project „Maximizing the coverage of effective HIV prevention and care among the most-at-risk population“ is part of a state program titled: “Coordinated national response to HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis in a war-torn and highly stigmatized environment” which was approved by the Ministry of Civil Affairs of B&H and UNDP B&H as the main fund recipient. The partners in the implementation of the program are the Federal Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of Republika Srpska, the Department of Health and Other Services of Brčko District, the Public Health Department of FB&H, the Institute of Health Care of RS and 10 non-governmental organizations from all over B&H.

*The end goal of the above-mentioned program is to reduce the rate of HIV transmission and to improve the (medical) treatment of HIV, care and support in Bosnia and Herzegovina.*

The implementation of this program will significantly strengthen the fight against HIV/AIDS in B&H at the state level.

The program will be implemented in two phases and will be directed at raising awareness about HIV among the most-at-risk population with a comprehensive approach in providing support for HIV prevention in B&H. The effective treatment of HIV and the care of persons infected by HIV in vulnerable groups of the population represent a key strategy for prevention.

Association XY provides services to the population of men having sex with men (MSM) and convicted persons in FB&H through conducting preventive and educational programs, which are in accordance with the goals and commitments of the World Health Organization, the Global Fund, the Strategy for a response to HIV/AIDS in B&H 2011 – 2016 and the Strategic plan of Association XY.

## THE ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF ASSOCIATION XY WITH MSM IN FB&H

The key activities within the educational and preventive program for the MSM population are realized through the work of four drop in centers in the Federation of B&H, namely in Sarajevo, Zenica, Mostar and Tuzla. In these locations, Association XY formed teams which consist of field workers, MSM advisors and peer educators, who are available to MSM clients on a daily basis in providing psychological counseling services, free distribution of condoms, lubricants and educational material, voluntary and confidential counseling and testing services on the premises of the drop in centers, organizing educational peer sessions and all other services adapted to the specific needs of each client in this population. The peer education program for the MSM population in drop in centers has shown to be very effective in increasing the number of MSM clients covered by the HIV prevention program.

# 4

## MAXIMIZING THE COVERAGE OF EFFECTIVE HIV PREVENTION AND CARE AMONG THE MOST-AT-RISK POPULATION

<b>Duration:</b>	February 2011 – November 2015
<b>Donor:</b>	Global Fund, UNDP (Primary fund recipient for B&H)
<b>Location:</b>	Sarajevo, Tuzla, Mostar, Bihać, Busovača, Orašje and Zenica
<b>Target groups</b>	MSM and Convicted persons in F B&H





In this way, improved access to continuous education, information and counseling services was enabled and specifically adapted to the needs of vulnerable groups in B&H, which is shown by the result- 2.400 MSM persons covered by peer education in 2014. As part of the basic service package, they were provided with 169.776 condoms and 11.838 educational materials. With the aim of completing the services, MSM persons are provided with confidential and free testing services in drop in centers or through vouchers given out in VCTC (Voluntary Counseling and Testing Centers), which are located within the departments for infectious diseases of hospitals in the Federation of B&H.

Two MSM advisors are active in all XY drop in centers on a daily basis in order to analyze each MSM client, recognize potential risky behavior, and based on that offer information in accordance with the specific needs of each client. Taking into account the high costs of HIV treatment for HIV-positive patients, it can be said that the project is very useful in the context of prevention, and also very cost effective in the context of saving on treatment expenses, which is realized through prevention. For all the above-mentioned reasons, the results will be presented to relevant institutions with the aim of continuing financing even after the completion of the project..

#### ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF ASSOCIATION XY WITH CONVICTED PERSONS IN FB&H

Association XY is one of the rare non-governmental organizations which conducts preventive programs in the field of health in correctional institutions in FB&H. If we take into account the fact that correctional institutions currently have no means to work continuously on the protection against and prevention of sexually transmitted infections, the role of Association XY is very significant in the improvement of the life quality of persons with an infection, as well as in the context of preventing the reoccurrence of infections.

Through educational sessions and peer education, Association XY has a positive impact on raising awareness and knowledge about HIV among convicted persons and institutional staff, where trainers also review the professional risks, and provide guidelines on how to eliminate that risk or reduce it to a minimum.

During 2014, 30 peer educators used their knowledge and skills through peer education sessions to provide information and raise awareness on the importance of HIV prevention and other sexually transmitted infections and blood-borne infections to 698 convicted persons in KPZ (correctional institutions): Zenica, Sarajevo, Tuzla, Mostar, Busovača and Bihać. Association XY bases its preventive activities in FB&H on the basic service package for convicted persons, who have quality educational and preventive material at their disposal. In 2014, convicted persons in the above-mentioned correctional institutions received 5.960 condoms and 783 brochures. For years now, the model of peer education has shown to be the most effective way of transmitting knowledge, using the methodology of Association XY which is based on educational sessions, trainings and the use of educational posters. Upon the completion of training, convicted persons share their knowledge with other convicted persons. Association XY continues to conduct training sessions for institutional staff on the topic of HIV prevention, the professional risks, stigma and discrimination.

During 2014, Association XY continued to conduct voluntary and confidential counseling and testing of convicted persons. The testing is conducted in cooperation with accessible VCTC (Voluntary Counseling and Testing Centers).

It is significant to highlight the good cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Justice, and with KPZ Sarajevo, Mostar, Zenica, Bihać, Busovača, Orašje and Tuzla in our work so far in the implementation of project activities. This is something that has raised the level of improving the life quality and HIV prevention of convicted persons in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.





## ABOUT THE PROJECT

During fourteen years of work, Association XY has achieved many results, and one of the most significant ones is the introduction of the alternative school subject Healthy Lifestyles into the elementary school system, which was accomplished in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of the Sarajevo Canton (Ministry of the Sarajevo Canton). The introduction of the subject into the educational system was a long-term process which consisted of the creation of the „Healthy Lifestyles“ Guide for Students, the Teaching Plan and Program, as well as the Handbook for Teachers, all of which were a result of the committed work of the Association and the Ministry of the Sarajevo Canton. In 2014, teachers were supported through the implementation of 18 educational and advocacy sessions for teaching staff with the aim of ensuring access to quality and reliable information in the field of reproductive health and healthy lifestyles.

## THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

Cooperation with the Ministry of the Sarajevo Canton was continued through the realization of 18 educational and advocacy sessions which were implemented through 9 two-day training sessions for teaching staff. The organizer of the training was Association XY, and the facilitators of the training sessions were representatives of the Ministry of the Sarajevo Canton, and the creators of the subject, who, in an interactive and dynamic way, presented the content and the ways of conducting modular lessons through the adoption of life skills and the realization of educational, formative and functional goals from the Teaching Plan and Program. 184 teachers attended the training sessions, and their opinions and attitudes which were expressed in the evaluation questionnaire for the subject indicated the need for a continuation of education for the teaching staff, the creation of additional educational tools for conducting lessons, cooperation with the non-governmental sector with the aim of providing more quality lessons, because the subject is, as the teachers pointed out, a quality one and is of great importance for students.

The sessions „Reproductive health“ were created based on the curriculum of the Population Council titled „It's all one curriculum“ which has been recognized throughout the world as a unique guide for proper youth development through an approach based on rights, gender sensitivity and equal participation of everyone. Association XY translated and adapted the curriculum which is now available to teaching staff as a valuable tool for conducting participatory lessons, which students expressed they liked best in the evaluation of their satisfaction with the subject. The results of the evaluation indicate the need of young people for such content and similar topics, their satisfaction with the manner of execution and the content of the subject, but also a desire that more of their peers attend lessons in the school subject Healthy Lifestyles in the future. All of the results of the evaluation were used in the advocacy plan of the young members of Association XY, which provided guidelines for the creation of an advocacy brochure for parents and children, in the form of a class timetable, which was distributed in the Sarajevo Canton. Additional activities were also directed towards parents who received the required information and materials through sessions organized in cooperation with the Parents' Council of the Sarajevo Canton. All the activities were supported by the media, which created investigative stories about the subject from the perspective of the teaching staff, the ministries, parents, experts, Association XY, and the students who attend classes in Healthy Lifestyles.



*„The quality and accountability in the work of the representatives of Association XY, who had direct participation in all these activities were a clear indication to the general public and of course to this Ministry that the future of important project activities lies in the cooperation of the governmental sector with quality non-governmental organizations like Association XY“, pointed out Lamija Husić, an associate at the Ministry of the Sarajevo Canton.*

## PROVIDING SUPPORT IN STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN TEACHING THE SUBJECT „HEALTHY LIFESTYLES“

**Duration:** January 2014 – December 2014

**Donor:** IPPF EN i UNFPA BiH

**Location:** Sarajevo



# 6

## PROMOTING HEALTHIER LIFESTYLES AMONG YOUTH IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

**Duration:** 2014 - 2017  
**Donor:** CARE International Balkans, Swiss Government, OAK Foundation  
**Location:** Sarajevo, B&H



### ABOUT THE PROJECT

In September 2014, in cooperation with CARE International Balkans and with the support of the Swiss Government, the OAK Foundation and CARE Germany-Luxembourg, Association XY began a new three-year phase of the program „The initiative of young men- promoting healthier lifestyles among youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina by challenging gender stereotypes“. During the creation of the new phase of the project for the period of 2014–2017, cantonal and entity ministries of education provided full support for the continuation of activities, pointing out that in the previous project phases, in the period of 2007-2013, Association XY and its partners achieved enviable results in their work with youth. Other institutions which have the same or complementary goals as the focus of their work also joined in to provide support.

The new three-year phase integrates the lessons learned in the previous period, but the approach to work and methodology have not really changed. In the previous phases, the focus was primarily on working with young men, while in this new phase activities will be equally directed towards young women. Apart from educational activities in schools, there are plans for numerous campaigns for raising the awareness of secondary school students, and also for their involvement in creative workshops which will further motivate them to have non-violent and positive interactions with their peers. The program is based on the adoption of life skills and knowledge of adolescents, with the aim of encouraging them to reassess their attitudes and values which harbor unhealthy types of behavior. Considering that the activities will be directed towards adopting new and maintaining existing healthy and non-violent lifestyles, Association XY will conduct scientifically based research used in the previous phase of the project in schools where the program is being implemented. This research will define the initial state of affairs in schools, and monitor the progress of students and the success of the project in additional evaluation phases. The results of the evaluation will be used to create a comprehensive model, which will go through the process of accreditation by relevant educational, health and other institutions and as such will be offered free of charge for use in all schools in B&H. In this way, in cooperation with partners, Association XY will ensure the sustainability of the methodology, which had its positive outcomes confirmed through scientific research in all the previous phases. In the first quarter of 2015, Association XY will identify 3 youth organizations which will be trained and empowered to take over the methodology and independently start implementing the activities of „The initiative of young men“ program.

### THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

From September until the end of December 2014, numerous preparatory activities were organized which included the strategic planning of program interventions, the identification of new schools where the said activities would be implemented, and also the harmonization of the views of partners on the project, considering that the project foresees the intensification of cooperation with relevant ministries and new youth non-governmental organizations, which will be empowered to independently plan, implement and evaluate program interventions. From September until the end of December, 3 strategic planning meetings were held where, apart from the partners, the representatives of donor organizations which were involved in regular monitoring activities were also present. In December, the representatives of Association XY presented the new project at a conference titled „State of the World Population“, which was held in Sarajevo and organized by the local UNFPA office. In addition, the first campaign for raising public awareness was held in December; it was planned and implemented by youth gathered in the „Be A Man Club“ and the „FKT Club“. The campaign was organized on December 10, 2014 to mark the international Human Rights Day and as part of the „16 Days od Activism against Violence towards Women“ campaign. The volunteers of Association XY and the members of the „Be a Man Club“ Sarajevo invited the citizens of Sarajevo to raise their voices against violence and sign the „My 5 against violence“ declaration, which was placed at the Children of Sarajevo Square. This is a regional activity, which has been successfully implemented in several B&H cities (Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Mostar, Konjic), as well as in Serbia, Croatia and Kosovo.

# 7

## MOVING REGIONAL PRIORITIES OF THE ICPD AGENDA FORWARD IN THE POST 2015 FRAMEWORK

**Duration:** March 2014 - November 2014

**Donor:** IPPF EN

**Location:** Bosnia and Herzegovina



### ABOUT THE PROJECT

The first International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) was held in Cairo in 1994 and on that occasion the governments of 179 countries, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, committed themselves to working on population development based on human rights, in accordance with the ICPD Action Program, which was created and adopted at this conference. The Action Plan also consists of a series of commitments which relate to sexual and reproductive health and rights, reducing poverty, achieving a higher rate of gender equality, and improving access to quality education and health care. Today, 20 years after the ICPD, Bosnia and Herzegovina has done a lot in order to achieve the commitments it undertook; therefore, what remains to be done after 2015, along with the rest of the world, is to show persistence and determination and to continue to build a society of equality, where human rights are imperative, and the quality of life is a social aim.

B&H has established institutional actors on the state and entity level which deal with issues related to population and sustainable development. Considering that this relates to different fields of the ICPD goals and MDG (Millennium Development Goals), various institutions, including international partners, are involved in the monitoring and realization of implementation of activities defined by the national action plan. Certain international institutions provide support in strengthening cross-sectoral cooperation, and there are more and more examples of successful joint programs of governmental and non-governmental organizations. Non-governmental organizations play an important role in the realization of the above-mentioned goals. It is important to emphasize that in the last 5 years there has been a considerable growth in the number of quality programs which have been jointly implemented by the governmental and non-governmental sector. In 2014, Association XY continued its advocacy-related activities, as well as monitoring the achievement of the ICPD goals through a project titled „Integration of regional priorities of the ICPD agenda within the framework of the Program for the post 2015 period.“

### THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

During 2014, Association XY continued with the realization of activities directed towards the acceleration of achieving the goals defined by the national ICPD Action Plan, which the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted, and as such formally defined the national priorities, many of which represent an integral part of the mission of Association XY. In March 2014, Association XY formed an informal coordinating group which was put in charge of planning and monitoring the realization of activities. In March and April, the coordinating group made an initial analysis, and defined the priority areas which required special attention during the realization of the project. The group identified the key governmental institutions which were later involved in the advocacy program, and also made a set of recommendations for the acceleration of the implementation of the ICPD goals in B&H. From March until November, 10 meetings were held with the representatives of relevant entity and state institutions. In the final phase of the project, the representatives of these institutions were involved in the creation of recommendations and advocacy documents which would be used in the future for a more quality integration of sexual and reproductive health and rights in the post 2015 agenda and to speed up the implementation of undertaken commitments and activities defined by the national ICPD program. Recognizing the significant role of the non-governmental sector and its capacities in the field of advocacy, Association XY participated in numerous meetings with their representatives in 2014, and the result of that are partnerships with 4 non-governmental organizations. It is especially important to mention the participation of Association XY at the international conference „Population and Development Dialogue“, which was held in June 2014. The steps that Association XY and the national UNFPA office are taking in order to accelerate the implementation of activities defined by the PoA were presented at this conference, and cooperation was established with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of B&H, whose representatives also actively participated in this conference. From July until September 2014, the representatives of relevant entity institutions made an analysis of results achieved in the field of ICPD goals in the last 20 years, and they created a set of recommendations which would contribute to the realization of the remaining ICPD goals. Two documents were created, namely „Sexual and reproductive health in B&H – An overview of policies, legislation and the current status of the SRHR field in B&H“ and „Recommendations for the advancement of SRHR in Bosnia and Herzegovina“. In order to inform the public in B&H about the significance and implementation of activities defined by the national ICPD program, Association XY published a set of informative articles in cooperation with „Journal“ magazine.



# CROSS-SECTORAL COOPERATION WITH THE AIM OF IMPROVING PROCEDURES FOR THE PROACTIVE PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

**Duration:** August 2014 - May 2015

**Donor:** The Embassy of the United States in B&H

**Location:** Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Mostar and Brčko,  
B&H

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

Due to its geographic location, as well as the consequences of transition that it is going through, Bosnia and Herzegovina is a suitable breeding ground for various forms of human trafficking. The lack of knowledge and information about its forms significantly contributes to the development of this phenomenon in our society. Significant efforts to solve the issue of human trafficking are being made by non-governmental organizations, which work on strengthening cross-sectoral support for victims of human trafficking in cooperation with the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina. An example of quality cooperation of governmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions is the project „Cross-sectoral cooperation with the aim of improving procedures for the proactive protection of victims of human trafficking“, which Association XY is implementing in partnership with the Ministry of Security of B&H, i.e. the Office of the State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migrations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Mental health centers, social welfare centers and the police also have a significant role in the implementation of the project. The project represents a continuation of a successful and quality cooperation between Association XY and the Ministry of Security of B&H with the aim of creating new, as well as improving existing referral mechanisms which are relevant in the context of prevention, but also in providing services to victims of human trafficking. The project activities are complementary to the priorities and goals within the Strategy to Counter Trafficking in Human Beings in B&H 2013-2015, i.e. the strategic goals of D.7. Developing standards in providing assistance to victims of human trafficking and D.8. Reintegration of victims of human trafficking (rehabilitation, repatriation and resocialization). The planned





activities contribute to the development of minimal standards of quality provision of assistance to victims of human trafficking in the domain of ensuring legal assistance, accommodation, psychological and social protection, medical care, education, work training, finding work etc.

THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

During 2014, Association XY implemented two workshops with 26 representatives of social welfare centers, mental health centers and the police. Both workshops were designed so as to introduce the participants to the phenomenon of human trafficking, and to inform them in a practical and clear way, through interaction with facilitators, of the steps and procedures which need to be undertaken so that the victim could receive the highest standard of treatment in the process of rehabilitation, repatriation and resocialization, but also in the context of preventing new cases of human trafficking through cross-sectorial cooperation of key institutions in the country.

In order to provide quality solutions in the context of providing proactive protection to victims of human trafficking, the project envisaged the creation of a Guide for multidisciplinary cooperation in the process of

rehabilitation, resocialization, reintegration and repatriation of victims of human trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which will utilize a practical and simple way to present the necessary steps for allowing victims of human trafficking access to quality protection, rehabilitation, repatriation and resocialization processes. Prior to this, a working group was established at the initiative of the Ministry of Security, which ensured that relevant institutions nominated members who could utilize their expertise to contribute in a way to make the Guide a quality tool for providing adequate services to victims of human trafficking. During 2014, two meetings of the working group were held when the methodological framework and the tasks of each working group member were defined. Towards the end of December 2014, the first draft of the Guide was created.

In order to encourage a more general social dialogue and raise the awareness of citizens of the Sarajevo Canton about the issue of human trafficking, with an emphasis on beggars, Association XY undertook a series of activities related to marking the European Anti-Trafficking Day on 18. 10. 2014, in cooperation with the Ministry of Security of B&H, the Department for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, and in accordance with the Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period of 2013-2015 and the Program for Marking Significant Dates in the Field of Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina. These activities were also conducted in Banja Luka, Tuzla and Mostar.





# 9

## MENTAL HEALTH IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

**Duration** March 2014-February 2015  
**Donor** Swiss Government  
**Location** B&H

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Mental Health Project in B&H is being implemented throughout the country and presents the result of the continuous commitment of the Federal Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of Republika Srpska towards creating a better environment and better mental health care in B&H. The project supports the mental health strategies in both entities (FB&H and RS) and Brčko District, as well as the authority of the Ministry of Civil Affairs of B&H for harmonizing the health care policies in the country and fulfilling the international commitments of B&H. The project is being implemented by Association XY.

The mission of the Mental Health Project in B&H is to realize a common vision of entity ministries of health for better mental health of people in B&H based on better policies and services which would be able to reach the European standard in mental health care. The project offers the professional and technical support necessary for realizing the strategic vision, while the ministries ensures that the project is implemented under their strategic leadership. In this way, the support offered by the Swiss Government is clearly directed towards the creation of a well harmonized system which could lead to improved health and welfare of persons with mental health issues.

The first phase of the Mental Health Project in B&H lasted from May 2010 until February 2014. Phase I was largely based on the findings and recommendations of comprehensive research in the field of mental health in B&H under the title "Analysis of the situation and an evaluation of mental health services in the community in B&H" which was implemented by the Mental Health Project for South East Europe in 2009 and which represents an evaluation of progress in the field of mental health in the community in the period of 2000-2008.

Phase II is the continuation of Phase I, therefore it directly reflects and supports the strategic approach as a response to the numerous challenges which arose during the mental health reform defined in entity strategies for the protection and improvement of mental health. The project design and expected results of Phase II of the Mental Health Project in B&H are based on the achieved results and challenges which were determined in Phase I, as well as on the recognized needs of mental health professionals and beneficiaries, as well as the reform priorities.



### THE MAIN GOALS OF THE PROJECT AND THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

The general goal of the Mental Health Project in B&H, Phase II, is to „Contribute to the improvement of the general well-being of persons with mental disorders and those who are at a risk of developing mental disorders“, and the overall result of Phase II is defined as the „Reduction of stigma, increased social inclusion and better quality of life of persons with mental disorders and those who are at a risk of developing mental health issues, i.e. disorders“.

In order to realize the aforementioned goals, project activities will be carried out in three different strategic fields which complement one another:

1. Strengthening the management capacities of stakeholders in the mental health care system in the community.
2. Improvement of access and quality of mental health care services in the community.
3. Reduction of discrimination against persons with mental health disorders.



**Planned outcome 1: Management of mental health services in the community is more effective and their quality is continuously improved based on evidence**

With the aim of establishing effective management of mental health care institutions at the community level, during the reporting period activities towards the development and implementation of transparent procedures and standards in the work of mental health care institutions were implemented through the process of accreditation of mental health centers. On the other hand, progress was made towards the establishment of a monitoring system of mental health in the country, which is in line with international monitoring standards and focused on monitoring quality, and taking measures towards the improvement of practice. The key steps in regards to this outcome were made and the following was documented:

- Development of a set of indicators for the quality of mental health services;
- Accreditation of mental health centers – in FB&H six centers for mental health are accredited and one is accredited conditionally; in RS two centers for mental health are accredited;
- Support for the development of mental health strategies;
- Situational analysis and the needs assement in the field of mental health reporting.

**Planned outcome 2: Persons with mental disorders and those who are at a risk of developing mental disorders have access to extensive and more quality mental health services in their communities**

The improvement of the quality of services provided to persons with mental disorders and those who are at a risk of developing mental health issues and disorders will be realized through the introduction of innovative services in mental health institutions aimed at recovery and increased access to a range of complementary services in the community. With that goal, the initial results were achieved through the following steps:

- Preparation of projects by professional associations for implementing educational programs in mental health centers;
- Preparation of introducing formal training in occupational therapy in mental health through faculties of health in B&H;
- Supporting the effective application of services of coordinated care in mental health;
- Defining the framework and guidelines in implementing preventive and promotional programs in mental health;
- Supporting the infrastructure of mental health centers.

**Planned outcome 3: Reduction of discrimination towards persons with mental disorders at the community level**

During the reporting period, an evaluation of the experience of discrimination of mental health service users was made and it represented the starting point in relation to which the results of relevant project activities would be evaluated. It was determined that the users who were involved in this research felt discriminated against in the following domains (out of 17 domains): social life, entering employment, during their employment, realizing their rights to benefits, social benefits and disability pensions, contact with police, family planning and giving birth to children. The results will serve as a starting point for further research and the creation of a coordinated plan of measures and activities which will ensure support for the system in promoting mental health, the prevention of mental disorders, reduction of stigma and discrimination towards persons with mental disorders and the improvement of treatment and recovery from mental disorders. During the reporting period, the initial results within this outcome were achieved through the following steps:

- The creation of the Draft of the guide for implementing anti-stigma programs in the field of mental health aimed at specific groups of the population;
- Monitoring and analysis of the changes of stigmatizing attitudes in B&H media;
- The creation of the Draft handbook for the intervention of social inclusion of mental health service users.



# 10

## CONTRIBUTION OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE POSITION OF PEOPLE WITH RARE DISEASES IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

**Duration:** December 2012 – December 2014  
**Donor:** European Union  
**Location:** Bosnia and Herzegovina

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

The project „Contribution of civil society organizations in the improvement of the position of people with rare diseases in Bosnia and Herzegovina“ was recognized by the European Union as an opportunity for the joint cooperation of civil society organizations and authorized health ministries in establishing a basis for a systematic solution of the problem of health care for citizens of B&H who have been diagnosed with a rare disease.<sup>1</sup> The project is envisaged to strengthen the Coalition of Health Care Organizations in B&H (COH BH), which contributes to equal and quality access to health care for all citizens through its activities, without discrimination and stigma, through cooperation with authorities in B&H and with the support of relevant international and local organizations. Through the project, associations which bring together people living with rare diseases<sup>2</sup> and members of COH BH had the opportunity to strengthen their capacities and actively participate in all project activities.

**Main goals of the project:** The goals of the project were directed at establishing a strategic framework for the improvement of health care for people living with rare diseases, and developing and increasing the capacities of civil society organizations for a partnership dialogue with authorities, and creating and implementing policies and programs in the health care field.

<sup>1</sup> According to the definition of the European Organization for Rare Diseases (EURORDIS), rare diseases are considered to be those that occur in no more than five persons per 10.000 members of the general population (no more than one diseased person per 2.000 members of the general population)

<sup>2</sup> Beneficiaries' associations





## THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

In the second year of the project's implementation, the strengthening of the capacities of beneficiaries' associations which were present at two training sessions in 2014 on the topic of: Stigma and discrimination in the field of rare diseases and Project Cycle Management and Effective Communication was continued. The exchange of good practices and expertise of B&H beneficiaries' associations with the Croatian Coalition of Associations in Health Care was also continued, which contributed to the determination of further guidelines in setting new goals and tasks when it comes to rare diseases in B&H. An extremely important segment of the project which was implemented in 2014 was the National Campaign on Rare Diseases in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which had the goal of informing the general public about the topic of rare diseases, the problems that those living with rare diseases encounter on a daily basis and for citizens to become more sensitized to the specific needs of this vulnerable population of B&H society. The advocating activities of Association XY in regards to adopting entity-wide strategies on rare diseases were a priority. Everything that was done within the project was presented at the Conference on Rare Diseases in December 2014, where project partners, representatives of beneficiaries' associations, representatives of entity ministries of health and other relevant institutions, as well as the representatives of beneficiaries' associations from the region, had the opportunity to come together.

### **Achievements (results) of the project:**

*The Strategy on rare diseases of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina*, which was created in the first year of this project by a working group appointed by the Federal Health Ministry, was adopted at an assembly of the Government of FB&H, which was held in June 2014. The Program for rare diseases in Republika Srpska was adopted by the Republika Srpska Government in December of the same year. Both documents represent a turning point in solving the issue of rare diseases in B&H and a basis for ensuring the institutional framework and mechanism for quality health care of those suffering from rare diseases. The documents define priority strategic goals, primarily the creation of a rare disease register, the advancement of early diagnostics and access to medical treatment and establishment of rare disease centers in the Federation of B&H and Republika Srpska.

Through a set of four training sessions during the two-year implementation of the project, the capacities of beneficiaries' associations which bring together those suffering from rare diseases were strengthened, as were the capacities of the Coalition of Health Care Organizations in B&H. A total of 85 members from 16 beneficiaries' associations were educated.

As part of the *National Campaign on Rare Diseases in B&H*, the public was informed about what rare diseases are, what the socio-economic status of those suffering from rare diseases is, and about the critical problems that they are faced with on a daily basis. The campaign was realized in the form of 4 radio shows which were broadcast on FB&H Radio and 19 radio vignettes which were also broadcast on FB&H Radio and BN Radio. The campaign also covered print media: *Azra* magazine and *Health in the Home*, so readers had the opportunity to find out more about this project and what it is like to live with a rare disease in Bosnia and Herzegovina.





# PREVENTION OF VIOLENT BEHAVIOR AMONG THE YOUTH OF CENTER MUNICIPALITY- STOP THE VIOLENCE

**Duration:** September 2014 - December 2014  
**Donor:** Center Municipality, Sarajevo  
**Location:** Sarajevo, B&H

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

The project „Prevention of violent behavior among the youth of Center Municipality- STOP THE VIOLENCE“ was implemented through a series of educational activities which took place from September until December 2014. The project directly involved students in the seventh, eighth and ninth grade in elementary school „Nafija Sarajlić“, while the educational and promotional campaign was also directed towards fifth and sixth grade students, who had the opportunity to find out about the workshops from their peers, and they were then also directly involved in the final activities of the project. The project aimed to educate 180 young people from the Center Municipality area about the existence of the issue of violence, what violent communication means, and also how to recognize certain types of violence. The implementation of the workshops, which were run by trainers and peer educators, ensured that the project increased the knowledge of young people about violence and violent communication, and trainers and peer educators used interactive methods to talk to young people about how certain types of violence are sometimes more common in their environment and how they are not known as such, and about how there are various tools which can prevent certain types of violence among youth. Through this project, the educational and promotional campaign presented young people with ways of non-violent communication, and promoted healthy lifestyles.





### THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

During the implementation of the project, the activities directly involved 190 young men and women, while the number indirectly reached over 300 beneficiaries, considering that some activities indirectly affected the lower grades, which were not the actual target group. Those 190 participants that were involved directly were between the ages of 13-15 and they had the opportunity to participate in discussions in the interactive workshops and to have a positive influence on younger students in this school.

By examining the analyzed pre- and post-testing questionnaire, it was determined that there was a significant increase in the knowledge of young people on the topics of violence and non-violent communication, and health and healthy lifestyles, i.e. an increase of 77,67%. By analyzing the different sections within the questionnaire, we can conclude that the biggest increase in knowledge was in the topic of violence (97%). The participants expressed great interest in the topic of puberty, where there was a 100% increase in knowledge. In the third question, which relates to psychoactive substances, an increase as high as 79% was recorded. Great success lies in the fact that 84% more students now have knowledge about techniques for calming down and their application, which at their age - a period of emotional and physical changes, is very important.

For educational purposes, leaflets titled „What I do when I am angry“, which provide useful and practical information on the topic of preventing violence and violent communication were created and distributed to 300 students.

In addition, during the realization of the project, two workshops were organized for selected students who had visited the Youth Friendly Health Center of Association XY, and on that occasion they spoke to the psychologist of Association XY about seeing psychologists and the benefits that that can have, especially

when it comes to the occurrence of violent forms of behavior.

In the final phase of the project, over 190 letters were distributed to parents with the aim of encouraging interaction and open dialogue about the importance of cooperation between the school, parents and relevant non-governmental organizations, as through joint action they can respond more adequately to the needs of the population which the project relates to.

INCREASING KNOWLEDGE OF PROJECT PARTICIPANTS







# 12

## KID'S FESTIVAL SARAJEVO

**Duration:** June 2014.  
**Donor:** UNFPA B&H  
**Location:** Sarajevo, B&H

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

Kid's Festival is the biggest independent children's event in South-East Europe. Each year around 40.000 children from every region of B&H attend the Festival. This is a very rich event which gathers tens of thousands of young people each year through workshops, exhibitions, interactive sessions, movies, dance and music.

In cooperation with UNFPA B&H, Association XY secured its place at the prestigious Kid's Festival in 2014 and introduced itself to the public and youth through a set of fun and educational workshops which were run by peer educators from the Association. Young people from all over Bosnia and Herzegovina took part in the workshops, having come to visit the Festival of fun and knowledge in Sarajevo in an organized manner, with their parents and teachers. The slogan of Kid's Festival in 2014 was „Together we can do more“, and it was aimed at promoting solidarity, humanity and care about peers who had been affected by floods during the year. The interactive workshop „Learn wherever you can“ on the topic of „Children and floods“ captured the attention of many Festival participants, and over 400 children and youth attended sessions on the topic of children's health during and after the floods. The first workshop referred to the topic of children and floods, the second and third workshop were focused on a healthy diet and the importance of physical activity of children for proper growth and development, and the fourth and final workshop addressed the issue of reproductive health in youth. The topics were in direct relation to the alternative school subject Healthy Lifestyles, which was introduced in elementary schools in the Sarajevo Canton for students from fifth to ninth grade, and which was presented through workshops to all young people who were visiting the Kid's Festival in Sarajevo. Especially for this occasion, a leaflet called Children and Floods was created for those children who had been affected by the natural disaster, which could have consequences on their health. The leaflet contains short and useful information, which is presented in an interesting way to appeal to the younger population.

## ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION XY OFFICE IN BANJA LUKA

### ASSOCIATION XY ALSO NOTES RESULTS IN BANJA LUKA

The Association XY Office in Banja Luka was established in 2006, and since then it has been working actively on the promotion and protection of health, healthy lifestyles, and also sexual and reproductive health and rights of youth and vulnerable groups. All of the results of the Association XY Office in Banja Luka were accomplished with the commitment and organization of young volunteers, schools and partnering organizations.

In 2014, the Banja Luka Office organized and implemented street actions, campaigns for raising awareness, focus groups for testing brochures, peer education, meetings of the editorial board of magazine „Love&Sex“, and the volunteers from Banja Luka attended the regional presentation of the report „State of the World Population“ in Sarajevo, which was organized by UNFPA B&H.

Besides promotional and educational activities, the Banja Luka Office provided counseling services, as well as condoms to young people throughout the entire year. Partnerships were formed with numerous non-governmental organizations and governmental institutions, but cooperation with children's educational center „Svjetlice“ from Banja Luka certainly marked the year. Namely, „Svjetlice“ center provides support services for the education of children with Down Syndrome and their parents by working in smaller groups which are formed based on the needs of the children. In cooperation with „Svjetlice“, Association XY organized an educational workshop for parents, carers and other professionals involved in the work of the center. The educational module was based on the „All about us“ methodology developed by the British Family Planning Association, which won many awards for the inspirational quality of the methodology. The (female) participants of the educational session „All about us“ in Banja Luka obtained the main information about the module, its usage and the benefits of using the module at home when discussing the body, sexuality and sexual relations. The president of the educational center „Svjetlice“, psychologist Valentina Ćuk believes that the module offers the main information, provides guidelines and encourages parents to initiate the topic of education on sexuality with their children with Down Syndrome. „Considering that sexual and reproductive health is a topic that is seldom discussed in our country, even with adolescents who do not have developmental disorders, and which is unfortunately still seen as a taboo subject, not only with parents but also with a large number of teachers, this is a unique handbook which can guide and relax parents as well as teachers to discuss the said topic. The module „All about us“ has great potential and it should be made known to a lot more people“, said Ms. Ćuk.







# XY YOUTH CENTER AND YSAFE B&H

## SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF XY YOUTH CENTER

In 2014, XY Youth Center marked its second anniversary, and today it is recognized among volunteers, educators and trainers as a place where young people have the opportunity to meet and build on their knowledge, hold training sessions, practice their presentation skills or discuss their experiences.

The active participation of Association XY volunteers in B&H society was realized through the Youth Sexual Awareness for Europe B&H network (YSAFE B&H network), which was founded in 2006 during the first annual conference held in Sarajevo. The network is an integral part of a much larger IPPF EN YSAFE youth network. Association XY supported this regional initiative and founded a national network with the aim of bringing together young people from various B&H cities in order to exchange experiences, information and skills, share positive practice examples, and to find a solution for overcoming obstacles that they are met with in their day-to-day work. Apart from that, the goal was to increase the participation of youth in programs for the promotion and protection of sexual and reproductive health and rights on a national, regional and European level.

XY Youth Center and YSAFE B&H marked some excellent results in 2014:

- 1.000 young people were educated in elementary and secondary schools through the implementation of peer education workshops on the topics of sexual and reproductive health and rights, non-violent communication, health and healthy lifestyles;
- 20 new peer educators on the topics of health and healthy lifestyles;
- Over 1.000 citizens were reached directly through street actions such as World Health Day, World Contraception Day, 16 Days of Activism, World AIDS Day and many others;
- Over 10.000 condoms were given out throughout the year;
- Over 15.000 educational brochures were given out;
- More than 500.000 people were reached through communication channels and social networks;
- The statute and body of the YSAFE B&H network of volunteers, educators and peer education trainers were established;
- XY Youth Center marked over 1.000 visits;
- 3 issues of the educational and fun magazine „Love&Sex“ were published and the 8th issue, published at the beginning of 2015, was prepared.

## XY VISIBILITY

Since its establishment, Association XY has recognized the importance of building a visual identity and image, and carefully constructed communications activities.

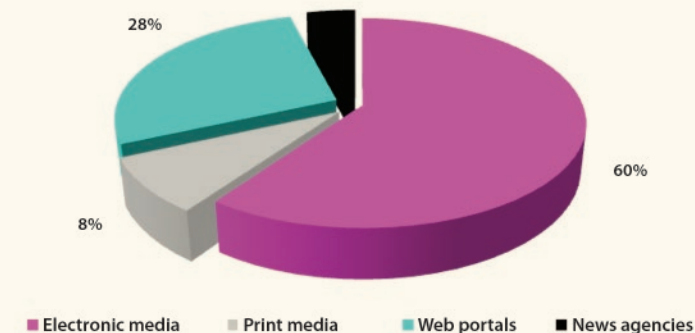
In accordance with current trends and market demands, the new visual identity of Association XY is clearly defined, original, simple and recognizable, and well accepted by target groups, as well as the general public.

The webpage, as well as social and communication channels of Association XY (Facebook, Twitter, Youtube and Soundcloud) have been changed and adapted, and they are characterized by a "user friendly" approach, simplicity and modern design. All this has contributed to a continuous increase in the number of fans and interaction with them on XY social networks.

It must also be mentioned that in the last few years, Association XY has succeeded in positioning itself on the media scene in B&H, and today the media recognize it as a reliable, relevant and professional partner and source when it comes to topics that relate to sexual and reproductive health, healthy lifestyles and mental health.

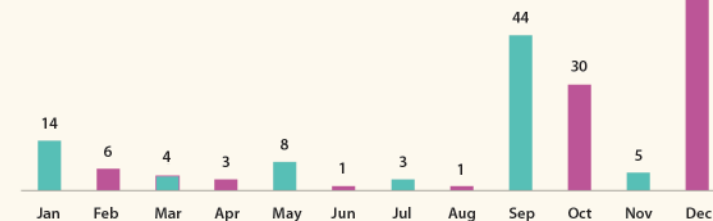


The number of generated media releases per month in 2014



An analysis of media releases shows that a significant number of media articles/reports, more precisely **189 positive media releases** were generated in 2014, when the topics and activities of Association XY were mentioned, as well as their donors, governmental institutions and partners. The highest number of media releases were generated during December 2014.

Breakdown of media releases by media type



Association XY was most frequently reported about in electronic media, followed by web portals, print media and news agencies. Public Broadcasting Services expressed an interest in AXY's program areas, as well as privately-owned media outlets.

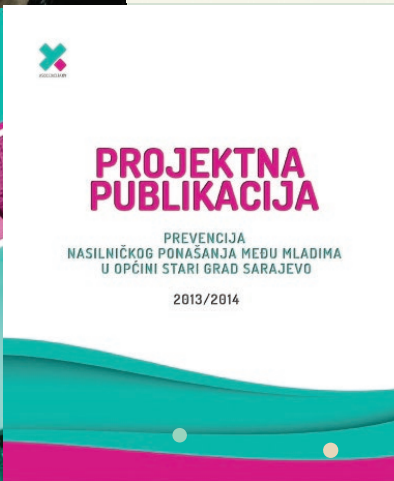
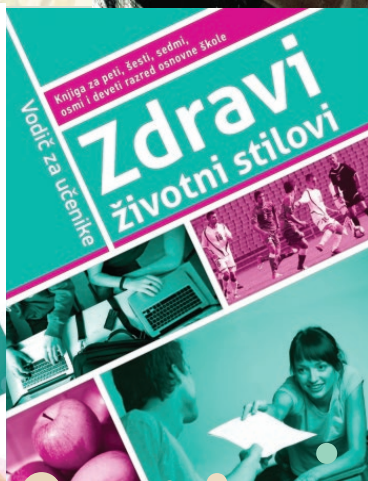




ПРОГРАМ ЗА РИЈЕТКЕ БОЛЕСТИ  
У РЕПУБЛИЦИ СРПСКОЈ 2015 – 2020. године



STRATEGIJA O RIJETKIM BOLESTIMA  
FEDERACIJE BOSNE I HERCEGOVINE  
(2014-2020)



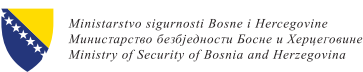
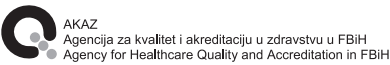
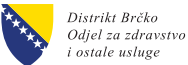
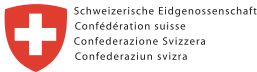
XY PUBLICATIONS



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