

COMMENTS ON THE UNFPA DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Second regular session 2025

Comments by Germany	UNFPA country/regional office response to comments
<p>Germany welcomes the draft CPD and the Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for BiH, 2026-2030. In particular, we welcome the draft CPD's commitment to supporting BiH in its EU accession process. The priorities of the EU Growth Plan for the Western Balkans are well reflected in the SDCF. To make progress toward achieving the SDGs, continued strong cooperation between UN agencies and the EU and alignment between programs are particularly important in the case of BiH.</p>	<p>UNFPA appreciates Germany's recognition of the CPD's alignment with BiH's EU accession process and the EU Growth Plan for the Western Balkans. As part of the EU-UN Dialogue platform in BiH, UNFPA co-leads with UNICEF and EU counterparts the human capital thematic group which ensures that the work of the EU and the UN remains complementary and supportive of both the SDGs and EU accession.</p>
<p>The draft CPD provides a well-reasoned analysis of the development challenges BiH is facing. However, challenges related to corruption and integrity seem underrepresented in its rationale. We invite UNFPA to further reflect on how its programs might address corruption and integrity, and how they may in turn be affected by it.</p>	<p>While UNFPA's mandate does not directly target anti-corruption programming, we acknowledge the cross-cutting impact of corruption and integrity on service delivery and trust in institutions. Through our work in strengthening accountability mechanisms in health and protection systems (e.g. GBV and SRH services), promoting transparency in public data (e.g. demographic and gender statistics), and empowering youth and civil society as agents of accountability, we contribute to fostering a culture of integrity and institutional trust.</p> <p>For funds managed by UNFPA, the organisation adheres to a robust internal control framework and a comprehensive enterprise risk management policy to safeguard its resources and ensure programme integrity. This includes a zero-tolerance policy for fraud and corruption. UNFPA conducts thorough due diligence and capacity assessments of all implementing partners, utilizing mechanisms like the Harmonized</p>

	Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) and spot checks to mitigate fiduciary risks and ensure funds are used for their intended purpose.
Germany is concerned about the ongoing political crisis in BiH. In particular, we condemn recent separatist actions and rhetoric of the Republika Srpska entity's leadership. We invite UNFPA to reflect on whether and how its programs can counter separatist sentiments in BiH.	UNFPA affirms that its programming is designed to strengthen social cohesion, trust-building, and inclusive governance at local, entity and state levels. Current and planned initiatives work across communities and entities—fostering inter-municipal cooperation. For example, the “Moving Us Closer” platform funded by the Italian government, brings together young people from different communities across BiH to build greater trust and understanding. Our work under the Regional Youth Peacebuilding programme has brought together educators across the Western Balkans to develop peace education curricula. We have also implemented bystander intervention education across the country with our partners. The cancer prevention programme funded by the EU, which began this year, brings together Ministry of Health officials from both entities to share challenges and develop common methodologies for research and will eventually move into the roll out of a cervical cancer screening programme across the country. All these efforts promote a shared vision of peace, inclusion, and mutual prosperity, which indirectly counters divisive narratives by focusing on common human development goals. We are committed to continue this work under the new CPD.