

TRANSMONEE 2012

COUNTRY ANALYTICAL REPORT
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

**Agency for Statistics of
Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Sarajevo, October, 2012.

1. Introduction

Data required to fill out TransMonEE 2012 were provided by the BiH Agency for Statistics, entity statistical institutes of the Federation of BiH and of the Republika Srpska and by the following institutions: Institute for Public Health of the Federation of BiH, Public Health Institute of the Republika Srpska, Department for Health and Other Services of the District Brcko Government, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of the Federation of BiH, Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Republika Srpska, Federal Pension and Disability Insurance Institute, Pension and Disability Insurance Fund of the Republika Srpska and SOS Children's Villages in BiH.

2. Feedback on the new template

NEW TEMPLATE AND GUIDELINES

The Guidelines provided detailed and very explanatory guidelines required to fill out the TM table. We did not encounter any technical problems when filling out the TM table.

Some data for the previous years have been changed. For better visibility, the changed data were marked in red.

SYMBOLS USED

The most frequently used symbols in the TM table for BiH are: *n/a (not available)*, – (explanatory notes for such a data are given in the CAR) and *e (estimate)* for data referring to a number of population by sex and age groups.

USE OF FLAGS

Most of definitions used are fully in compliance with national definitions; however, the age groups for some categories do not match to definitions given in the TM table. This mainly referred to institutionalized children, divided by age groups (each category with different divisions by age groups is explained in this report).

TIMELINESS

Most of the publications and press releases on demography and social statistics are published at the end of October. As 26 October was a deadline for submission of the TM table, statisticians in charge of such statistical data invested a lot of efforts to collect and process data in order to meet the deadline.

This year we encountered a problem with publication of the HBS data. The BiH Household Budget Survey (HBS) as planned should follow three-year dynamics, but due to the problems to provide the funds required to implement the HBS 2010, the start of the fieldwork activities was postponed to January 2011. The 2011 Household Budget Survey included two additional modules and is called the Extended Household Budget Survey (EHBS 2011). The preliminary results of the EHBS 2011 were published in the Press Release in July 2012. The final results, i.e. the publications will be published in January 2013 and such a data could not be included in the TM table.

Similar situation is encountered with data which could be extracted from the MICS referring to immunization and percentage of pregnant women receiving pregnancy consultations and percentage of births attended by trained personnel. The MICS4 survey was implemented in 2011/12. The Report, i.e. publication is currently undergoing the approval procedure by the global team in New York. As expected the results are to be published by the end of November, at latest. Accordingly, such a data could not be included in the TM table.

3. Data gaps and potential priorities to strengthen data availability at country level

DEMOGRAPHY

BiH is constantly encountering problem to monitor demographic trends as reliable data on a number of population are not available. After the last Population Census implemented in 1991 demographic data were based on various estimations.

Estimated number of population is updated annually on the basis of natural birth rate. As there are no data on age/sex structure of the population available from the Census, such data were collected from the Household Budget Surveys implemented in 2004, 2007, 2012 and are applied to the estimated number of population.

Pilot Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in BiH was carried out in October 2012 and the main Census as planned is to be carried out in April 2013. The final results of the Census are expected in 2014.

Data on live births by weight are available, but for 30% of live births there are no data on weight at birth. As this data are very unreliable they are not included in the TM table. Out of the total number of live births in 2011 (31 811), the weight at birth for 8 793 children was unknown.

There are no statistical data on induced abortions at the level of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The main reason for the lack of data can be explained by the fact that the private clinics (practice) do not provide data on a number of induced abortions, as well as by inadequate data records in the state hospitals and health institutions.

Public Health Institute of the Republika Srpska has data available on a number of induced abortions, but only for induced abortions in the public hospitals. Such data are published in the annual publication of the Institute „Analysis of Health of Population of the Republika Srpska“.

Institute for Public Health of the Federation of BiH does not collect data on induced abortions.

One of possible reasons for the lack of statistical data on induced abortions is that such data are unwillingly reported to the public, as alarming the public on high rate of induced abortions could open a discussion on enacting a ban on intentional termination of pregnancy which is, in particular, very actual issue in some religious communities and introduction of which could jeopardize and regress the rights of women in BiH.

The BiH Agency for Statistics publishes data on a number of immigrants and emigrants throughout BiH, i.e. publishes data on internal migrations only. The total number of immigrants and emigrants cannot be computed for BiH.

HEALTH

There are no detailed and reliable statistical data on disabled persons at the state level. Authorities and institutions providing some helpful activities and services to disabled persons maintain only partial records on their users, and such data refer only on specialized services provided to disabled persons and accordingly, cannot give a complete picture on the status of disabled persons.

According to data of the World Health Organization, at least, 10% of population of Bosnia and Herzegovina experience some physical, hearing, developing, cognition or emotional disabilities.¹

Data on morbidity (incidence of diphtheria, tetanus, hepatitis etc.), as well as data on tuberculosis and sexually-transmitted diseases are collected by the Institute for Public Health of the Federation of BiH, Public Health Institute of the Republika Srpska and Department for Health and Other Services of the District Brcko Government.

¹ „Report on Disability Status in BiH“ prepared within the framework of the project „Empowering the Associations for the Disabled“ financed by the European Union.

EDUCATION

Early childhood education, according to the BiH Education System, covers children age from 6 months to 3 years. A very low number of children in BiH attend pre-school education. This data are very worrying given the child early development.

Pre-school education is not provided as a free-of-charge education and as such is available only for children in urban areas whose parents have an employment.

The TM table shows data on children with special needs attending special schools.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

In BiH, the social protection system is decentralized following the Constitutional structure of the country. The role of the authorities at the State level and in the field of social protection and social policy is limited. In the Republika Srpska the social protection is under the jurisdiction of the entity, and as such provides plenty uniform even level of rights and their exercise. In the Federation of BiH the situation is more complicated due to division of jurisdiction between the cantons and entity level of authorities. The main difference in defining the rights within the framework of social protection, i.e. between the entity legislation on social protection, arises from the Constitutional structure of the entities with established different administrative structures. In addition, a considerable difference in the process of implementation of the entity legislation on social protection arises from a very different economic situation in the two entities. As a consequence, the level of social rights exercised by old persons in the Federation of BiH is very uneven from the formal and legal point of view, as well as when exercised in practice.

Data on socially vulnerable (disadvantaged/dysfunctional) families, foster and custodian families are collected by the respective Social Protection Centers. During the period from 2008 to 2011, 117 social welfare centers were operating in BiH. In the Federation of BiH, there are 72 social welfare centers and 45 in the Republika Srpska, but as of 2009 in the Republika Srpska 16 social protection departments have been established within the municipal administration. In the District Brcko there is no social welfare center, in fact there is a sub-sector established within the Department for Health and Other Services of the District Brcko Government.

Social welfare centers and/or social protection services play a crucial role in provision of social protection, in exercising the rights of the users and proper implementation of the social protection programs.

So far, the BiH Agency for Statistics and entity statistical institutions have not collected data on a number of registered socially vulnerable families.

Given a number of children without parental protection, data on the total number of children were given by sex, reason why they stayed without parental protection and by age groups divided differently from those given in the TM.

Data provided for institutionalized children refer to public institutions only.

According to data of the Federal Ministry of Work and Social Protection, 7 social welfare institutions in the Federation of BiH provide care for disabled persons and out of it 3 were established by the FBiH Parliament, 2 by the municipal/city authorities and 2 by NGOs. Care for children without parental care in the Federation of BiH is provided by 5 institutions established by the Cantonal Governments and 10 institutions established by non-government sector².

In the Republika Srpska there are 2 public institutions for children without parental care and children whose development/upbringing is hindered due to family problems, as well as 3 institutions for accommodation of children and young people encountering development problems and also accommodating children without parental care³. In the Republika Srpska, there are also socio-pedagogical communities as a form of childcare for children without parental care. In terms of legislation this is a form of foster care. This form of childcare is very efficient and covers both the accommodation of children and integrative approach to children without parental care. There are also a number of NGOs deployed throughout Republika Srpska with the activities aimed at promoting and improving the children's position. However, a number of organizations directly involved in provision of services to children without parental care is unknown⁴.

In BiH, the social welfare institutions for disabled children and young people encountering problems with mental and physical development accommodated 1 570 children in 2011. Disaggregated data by age groups do not correspond to age groups presented in the TM table and accordingly, such data were not reported.

Table 1 shows data on children accommodated in the social welfare institutions for disabled children and young people encountering problems with mental and physical development by age groups and for the period 2006-2011.

² Third Report of Bosnia and Herzegovina on Use of the European Social Charter (revised)

³ „Bulletin on Social, Family and Children Care“, The RS Ministry of Health and Social Protection

⁴ „Strategy to Improve Social Care for Children without Parental Care including the Plan of Activities for 2009-2014“

Table 1

		Total	Age of residents					over 21
			10 years and younger	11 – 13	14 – 15	16 – 17	18 - 21	
2006	total	1.553	129	151	102	121	139	911
	boys	954	64	94	44	59	72	621
	girls	599	65	57	58	62	67	290
2007	total	1.511	111	128	104	113	158	897
	boys	919	58	74	50	52	76	609
	girls	592	53	54	54	61	82	288
2008	total	1.577	139	135	110	99	160	934
	boys	956	76	78	53	49	75	625
	girls	621	63	57	57	50	85	309
2009	total	1.573	113	102	100	67	115	1.076
	boys	988	68	58	57	32	48	725
	girls	585	45	44	43	35	67	351
2010	total	1.571	126	93	97	81	116	1.058
	boys	1.008	84	53	58	42	55	716
	girls	563	42	40	39	39	61	342
2011	total	1.570	151	102	80	85	100	1.052
	boys	1.013	111	59	46	47	45	705
	girls	557	40	43	34	38	55	347

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, there are two Children's villages (SOS villages), the first one was established in 1996 in Sarajevo. Data on the total number of children are included in the TM table.

The TM table includes corrected data on a number of children with guardian care for the period 2005-2010. The number of children with guardian care includes the number of children with guardian care provided for some special cases. According to the Family Laws of the Federation of BiH and of the Republika Srpska, the guardian care for some special cases is provided in proceedings related to denied motherhood or disputed paternity, in proceedings to deprive the right of the parent to live with child and to have right of custody over the child/children, to conduct the proceedings and to conclude particular legal actions between the child/children and parents, as well as in some other cases where their interests are confronted.

Adoption of child/children in BiH is still undeveloped and long-lasting process aimed at providing a new home for children without parental care. At the same time, adoption is considered the best and permanent form of children's care. A number of adopted children in BiH is a very low due to different reasons and factors. This issue in BiH is regulated by the Family Law of the Federation of BiH and by the Family Law of the Republika Srpska, as well as by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The basic problem with adoption is connected with unavailability of adequate mechanisms to implement the laws. In BiH, adoption procedures are long-lasting, very complex, starting with proceedings to deprive the rights of the parents etc. Also, there is no unique data base of potential adoptive parents and children who fulfill adoption requirements. In particular, specific obstacles to the adoption process are related to adoptive parents' desire that often set their individual criteria to make a choice. In particular, the biggest problem is related to adoption of children with special needs due to prejudice related to such a category of children.

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND CRIME

The BiH Agency for Statistics still does not have available data on justice and crime at the State level due to the fact that the Institute of Statistics of the Republika Srpska started to collect and publish such data just this year. Preparation of the common methodology is progressing and crime statistics data will be aggregated and published as of the next year.

SOCIAL PROTECTION – GOVERNMENT INTERVENTIONS

The BiH Agency for Statistics and entity statistical offices, with financial support provided by UNICEF have started the activities related to the implementation of ESSPROS system in BiH. During the first half of 2012, training on ESSPROS system was conducted, the BiH system of social protection was presented and the problems and difficulties related to future data collection were identified. Further actions continued in October 2012 when, with the assistance of Mr. Flavio Bianconi (ICON expert), the statisticians from the BiH Agency for Statistics and entity statistical office, carried out the analysis of data and other information relevant for the BiH social protection system, defined the priority tasks, costs of social allowances provided by the competent authorities and established a good cooperation with other institutions included in the BiH social protection system considered to be future data sources.

30 ESSPROS schemes were identified, but for some of them it is still necessary to find data sources. Due to complex State structure, each entity has its separate schemes as the health, pension and social protection systems are defined by different entity legislation. Only a few common schemes are available for the State level.

As planned, a pilot survey with data for 2010 is to be conducted to test questionnaire and define eventual problems when filling it out.

Financing of the social protection services is not uniformly distributed at the level of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the Federation of BiH there is no uniform system for the collection of public revenues required for the provision of a minimum of social security. A considerable part of revenues is allocated to the cantons and further distribution of funds to the municipalities is regulated by the cantonal legislation. In the Republika Srpska the financing is organized at the level of municipalities. However, the rights within the framework of children's protection are financially covered at the level of entity out of the funds collected from the contributions for the children's protection and through the Public Fund for Children's Protection of the Republika Srpska.

System of pension and health insurance is under the responsibility of entities and it covers the age, disability and death risks of the insured persons. Such risks are covered through payment of uniform contribution. At the State level, there are neither unified policy nor common organization of the pension-disability insurance system. The only role of the State level authorities is related to the coordinating role of the BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs (Department for pension-disability insurance) in the implementation of the tasks and activities in the field of social policy and coordination with relevant entity authorities when drafting the bilateral contracts on social insurance. Regulations relevant for the field of pension and disability insurance are under the competence of the entities.

The two entities have separate pension funds: Federal Pension and Disability Insurance Institute and Pension and Disability Insurance Fund of the Republika Srpska. People living in District Brcko have an option to choose one of the entity funds to be paid their pensions. Allocations/contributions for the retirement represent the highest item in the contributions for social protection. Out of the total contribution rate for social insurance, paid by employees and employers, in both entities, 24% of the contributions are used for the pension insurance. In BiH, a number of retired persons is constantly increasing year by year. In 2011, a number of retired persons accounted for 608 936 which represented more than 15% of the total estimated population.

Pension and disability insurance institutes/funds in both entities pay old age, disability and family pensions. Out of the total number of pensions paid in 2011, nearly half of them accounted for old age pensions, around 30% for family pensions and 20% for disability pensions.

An average pension in the Federation of BiH in September 2012 was 350 KM, but in the Republika Srpska, for the same period, it was lower and amounted to 311 KM.⁵

In the Federation of BiH, the Federal Ministry for Issues of Veterans and Disabled Veterans of the Defensive-Liberation War pays veterans disability pensions and in the Republika Srpska payment is effected by the Ministry of Labour, War Veterans and Disabled Persons' Protection.

Funds used for the compensations (benefits) and payment of medical care provided to women for childbirths are provided in the framework of the compulsory social insurance

⁵ Institute for Pension and Disability Insurance of the FBiH and Pension and Disability Insurance Fund of the Republika Srpska

system, where contributions, taxes and other allocations are paid by all employed persons regardless sex and no matter whether they are paid by employees or employers, together or separately.

Every employed woman has a right to compensation during the maternity leave. In the Federation of BiH, the amounts to be paid are determined by Cantonal legislation in the field of social and children's protection, but in the Republika Srpska both the right to compensation and the amount to be paid are defined by the Labour Law and payment is made by the Children Protection Fund.

In District Brcko, mothers employed by private employers has a right to compensation during the maternity leave amounting to an average wage earned during the last 6 months of work and such compensation is at the expenses of the District Brcko Social Protection Centre. However, unemployed mothers have a right to compensation amounting to 15% of the average wage in the District Brcko and for the period of 3 months. Such a compensation is also at the expenses of District Brcko Social Protection Centre. In the Republika Srpska the compensation depends on the wage the employee earned on the basis of collective agreement before taking maternity leave. In the Federation of BiH it depends on the financial capabilities of each canton and it ranges from 50% to 70% of an average wage. Some cantons do not pay it at all as there are no funds available for such purposes⁶.

As the rights of women for childbirths in the Federation of BiH are exercised at the cantonal level and according to different cantonal legislation and rules, it is very difficult to get a single data for women with childbirths for the whole Federation and accordingly, the total number of women with childbirths at the level of BiH.

4. Children in infant homes

In BiH, there are not many data on residential care institutions for children less than 3 years old. Young children who are without parental care due to different reasons are accommodated with the foster families or in the institutions for children without parental care. Data for such a category of children are very sparse and insufficiently disaggregated.

In 2011, institutions for children and young people without parental care⁷ accommodated 77 children less than 3 years old, out of which 40 boys and 37 girls. During the period from 2007 to 2011 a number of young children were gradually decreasing in such institutions.

A very worrying fact is that a high number of children age up to 3 years is accommodated in such institutions, which is very dangerous for their physical, mental and emotional development. Activities aimed at improving foster care are mainly implemented in cooperation with NGOs. A low number of children is available for adoption. Complex adoption procedures represent one of the factors limiting more active implementation of

⁶ Third Report of Bosnia and Herzegovina on Use of the European Social Charter (revised)

⁷ Public institutions for children and young people without parental care. Data on private institutions are not available.

this form of child care considered best and permanent solution for protection of children without parental care, if properly and professionally implemented and in line with respective criteria for the selection of children and adoptive parents.

Most of children without parental care originate from the families encountering different socio-economic problems, but a number of children were abandoned immediately after being born and in most cases by juvenile mothers or children originating from illegitimate marriages⁸.

In addition to data on children without both parents (children whose parents died, are missing or unknown, whose parents were deprived of parental rights and children whose parents are absent and cannot look after them) registered in the social protection system following a decision of the competent authority, also there are children separated from the parents without knowledge of the competent authorities (children left to family or friends to look after them, children living in the street, children victims of trafficking etc.), number of which is not precisely determined and accordingly, data on them are incomplete and unreliable, as well as children accommodated in the institutions established by religious communities and/or NGOs and accordingly data on them are also incomplete or unavailable. Bosnia and Herzegovina and entities have adopted strategies and policies related to children without parental care, such as: *Action Plan for Children in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2011-2014*, *Document on protection of children without parental care and families encountering risks to be separated in the Federation of BiH for the period 2006-2016* and *Strategy for the Enhancement of Social Welfare of Children without parental care in the Republika Srpska for the period 2009-2014*.

5. Conclusion

Given the fact that there are no ministries for health, social protection and education at the State level, data collection for these fields is very complicated and demanding. Some data even cannot be collected in the various entity ministries. Also, there are problems to collect data within one entity, in particular in the Federation of BiH due to decentralized system of authorities, where each canton (10 cantons) has its own legislation for the respective fields. The most obvious example of application of different legislation within the cantons is the payment of maternity leave, as explained earlier in this report.

In the next period, Bosnia and Herzegovina will implement the ESSPROS system and accordingly, a number of data on revenues and expenditures for the social contributions will be available.

Methodology of Crime Statistics at the level of BiH is under preparation and accordingly, data on juvenile delinquents who committed criminal acts will be available in the future.

⁸ „Analysis of status of the children without parental care and/or children encountered with a problem to be left without parental care, based on the children’s rights “, SOS Children’s Villages in BiH

6. Annexes

Annex 1 – with data on morbidity for the entities and the District Brcko

Due to different methodologies and computing the incidence for some diseases, data on morbidity are given in a separate annex to overview data for both entities and District Brcko.

Data sources are: Institute for Public Health of the Federation of BiH, Public Health Institute of the Republika Srpska and Department for Health and Other Services of the District Brcko Government.