



## COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

Social Inclusion Foundation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

### Period covered by this Communication on Engagement:

From: October 2014

to: November 2021

November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
United Nations Global Compact  
685 Third Avenue, FL 12  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Madam or Sir,

I am pleased to confirm that Social Inclusion Foundation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SIF in BiH) reaffirms its support of the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption.

With this commitment in the form of biennial report, we express our intent to advance these ten principles within the framework of our influence, and will make clear statement of this commitment to our stakeholders the general public.

We have focused on two U.N. Global Compact areas that are most aligned with our work – Human rights and Labour and we will take necessary actions to continuously improve the integration of the Global Compact and its principles into our projects.

Our mission is to, as a non-profit, non-governmental organization involved in searching, assisting and helping all those who are in need and marginalized by means of trained, disciplined, high-standard personnel and campaigns, passing on knowledge to society with no political affiliation, to realise all of the above by strictly abiding to our values: volunteerism, integrity, reliability, helpfulness/humanitarianism, improving human rights, offering better perspective and give respect for human life.

We aim to continuously increase the awareness of the society towards marginalized groups of people as well as awareness for the human rights field, increasing their level of understanding and evolve it to an active society for their better future and better quality of life.

*Sincerely yours,*

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*Ranka Ninkovic-Papic,*  
*Director*  
*Social Inclusion Foundation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SIF in BiH)*  
*Branilaca Sarajeva 47, 71000 Sarajevo*



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### Description of Actions

#### *The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact*

##### **Human Rights**

**Principle 1:** Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and

**Principle 2:** make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

##### **Labour**

**Principle 3:** Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

**Principle 4:** the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;

**Principle 5:** the effective abolition of child labour; and

**Principle 6:** the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

##### **Environment**

**Principle 7:** Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

**Principle 8:** undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and

**Principle 9:** encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

##### **Anti-Corruption**

**Principle 10:** Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.



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### *Social Inclusion Foundation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SIF in BiH)*

#### **About us**

Social Inclusion Foundation in Bosnia and Herzegovina is a non-political, non-party, independent and non-profit non-governmental organization established by the Decision on establishment No IBHI/FSU u BiH/10 as of January 19, 2010 in accordance with the Law on Associations and Foundations of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Social Inclusion Foundation in Bosnia and Herzegovina was officially registered as of January 28, 2010 with the Ministry of Justice of BiH.

#### **Vision**

Our vision is active and vital civil society with committed and functional NGOs which promote equal opportunities and full exercise of human rights of all citizens. Respect of human rights and transparency in decisions and procedures making processes are the basis for participatory democracy and implementation of Social Inclusion Strategy (SIS).

#### **Mission**

Social Inclusion Foundation in Bosnia and Herzegovina enhances capacities and role of the non-governmental sector in strengthening social inclusion.

#### **Goals**

- Prevention and reduction of causes and consequences of social exclusion and poverty in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Direct support for identified most vulnerable groups in regards with poverty and social exclusion;
- Building and improving capacities of the NGO sector aimed at social inclusion, social entrepreneurship and poverty reduction of the target groups;
- Development of social entrepreneurship as a good practice in the field of employment and self-employment;
- Exchange of knowledge, experience, expertise and skills important for development of the NGO sector;
- Conducting various research projects;
- Active participation, support and promotion of partnership of government, non-government, public and private sector;
- Increasing availability of funds for NGOs from the local budgets through matching funds from local budgets (municipal, cantonal, entity) with SIF in BiH funds;



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- Strengthening transparency in making decisions on allocating funds from local budgets for projects and activities of NGOs in the field of social inclusion, social entrepreneurship and poverty reduction;
- Quality assurance is one of the primary principles of SIF in BiH work. SIF in BiH is committed to continued improvement of its own work and work of the partner organizations by applying international standards for quality assurance and having certified internal auditors for NGOs quality assurance management in its team.

### *Networks membership*

SIF in BiH is a member of the network **AGREEMENT PLUS**, **UN GLOBAL COMPACT NETWORK**, Coalition **KOMA**, Coalition **CIVILNI DIJALOG (CIVIL DIALOGUE)** and Network of Organisations for Support of Children with Development Delays.

### *Our values*

The work of SIF in BiH is based on the following values:

#### *1. Reduction of social exclusion*

The smallest possible percentage of citizens excluded from social processes on one or several bases, due to disability, social status, nationality or sexual orientation. Advocating for and spreading the idea of tolerance and increasing general social inclusion. SIF in BiH is striving towards social progress.

#### *2. Human rights for all*

The differences that individuals acquire or are born with must not be a reason for the laws and standards in human rights to apply differently to them in comparison to other citizens in society. Fight against prejudice because differences mean additional quality and value!

#### *3. Stop marginalisation!*

Working towards is making the need for use of the term „marginalised individuals and groups” gradually fall out of use and towards prejudice leaving gradually the minds of individuals and specific social groups!

#### *4. Transparency and accountability*

Adherence to legal procedures, ensuring a quality system in day-to-day functioning and activities and principles of good business in the process of awarding grants, monitoring and reporting – through own example and expecting the same from our partners.

#### *5. Stronger NGO sector*

Promoting the values of civil society with active and functioning NGOs dedicated to their citizens. Making civil society organisations more efficient in representing, protecting and meeting the interests of the population they represent through enhancing their capacities and work methodology and systematic changes in financing and role of non-governmental organisations.

#### *6. Promoting a society of equal opportunities*

Advocating for and promoting a society and systems of social support that not only provide the bare minimum for the functioning of marginalised citizens (e.g. in the medical sense), but also enable them to become equally included into all social processes, with an emphasis on their remaining possibilities and



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capacities to function from starting positions which are favourable and adapted to the specificities of such citizens.

### *7. Partnership of all*

A civil sector recognized as a partner to the public and private sector in the decision-making process, implementation and monitoring of those decisions, and civil society organisations that have earned the full trust of citizens.

*❖ According to the Ten principles of the UN Global Compact, these are the achievements of SIF in BiH since it's been established in 2010:*

- One of the main principle of the SIF in BiH work is social corporate responsibility which is best illustrated by the fact that SIF in BiH was selected as a member of the UN Global Compact Network and presented as a model of good practice in the Directory of “Best Practices of Corporate Social Responsibility in BiH”.
- SIF in BiH is the only non-governmental organization in BiH that focuses on the entire population of marginalized and excluded persons in the country and provides support to all the marginalized categories in the society, instead of working with and supporting only one marginalized group which is usually the case. SIF in BiH is registered at the level of BiH and in the period before 2014, it has supported 58 non-governmental organizations’ and social enterprises’ projects throughout the whole country.
- SIF in BiH can be rightfully considered as a roof organization for the support, assistance and inclusion of the marginalized groups and as well as a sectoral leader to the NGOs active in the area of social inclusion and poverty reduction. In regard of this, SIF in BiH proudly performs a role of Secretariat of the Coalition of marginalized groups in BiH “KOMA”, which gathers 121 members from civil, public and private sector.
- For the first four years, SIF in BiH established cooperation and partnership with 56 public institutions which matched funds with SIF in BiH and supported 58 projects of NGOs and social enterprises.
- SIF in BiH work with both the NGO sector and public institutions, is primarily based on several-level monitoring, control and evaluation system of both awarded funds and conducted activities, transparent and accountable usage of the awarded grants and public access to all the information concerning the SIF in BiH work.
- SIF in BiH was providing the NGO sector with a range of trainings (financial management, public procurement, legal and administrative matters, public advocacy and lobbying, reporting), written resources as well as daily consultations and advice-giving as well as strengthening the overall capacities, professionalism, transparency and visibility of the NGO sector.
- SIF in BiH has particularly strong expertise in conducting researches, assessments and analyses as well as dissemination and advocacy of the provided policy recommendations.
- SIF in BiH has been actively networking NGOs and CSOs working with the marginalized groups, networking was among NGOs and CSOs themselves as well as with the public institutions which was a very significant



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contribution of SIF in BiH to strengthening civil-public partnership in combating social exclusion and poverty reduction;

❖ ***SIF in BiH is continuously and actively working on the achievement of its strategic goals and objectives:***

- Preventing and reducing social exclusion and poverty of the most marginalized groups in BiH (persons with disabilities, minorities, the unemployed, the elderly, women, families with several children, the youth) through direct support and assistance to the marginalized groups;
- Development and strengthening of the capacities of NGOs in BiH in implementing projects and activities exclusively focused on strengthening social inclusion and poverty reduction of the marginalized;
- Development of social entrepreneurship by the marginalized groups as a good practice in the field of employment and self-employment;
- Conducting assessments, researches and in-depth analyses and providing policy recommendations in the area of social inclusion and poverty reduction of the marginalized groups, human development, social policies, strengthening of the NGO sector, democracy and good governance etc.

**For the last seven years (October 2014 – November 2021), we present our gained results and activities in accordance with UN Global Compact principles.**

**Abbreviations:**

BiH – Bosnia and Herzegovina

FBiH – entity of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

RS – entity of Republic of Srpska

BD BiH - Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina

SIF in BiH – Social Inclusion Foundation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

KOMA – Coalition of the marginalized groups

PWD – persons with disabilities

IBHI- Initiative for better and humane inclusion

EU-European Union

DEU in BiH- Delegation of European union in Bosnia and Herzegovina

CSO- Civil society organisation



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### ❖ *October 2014 – October 2015: Gained results and Influence*

The most important project for the SIF in BiH for the period 2014-2018 is Civil Society Sustainability Programme for the sector Human rights of marginalized groups. This project contains three components: Establishing and developing sectoral networks; Campaigns and monitoring; and Strengthening capacities and sustainability.

We gained significant progress in realisation of goals that were settled in the framework of the projects. Short-term goals were completely gained: analysis of the sector problems was successfully implemented. Coalition of marginalized groups in BiH – KOMA was also established, and in a short period of time the number of members has reached 64. Coalition KOMA has an organized structure with bodies that are performing specific functions and gather regularly: Executive Board, four Public advocacy bodies that manage and participate in four campaigns of public advocating and Committee for implementation of tracking Behaviour Code.

Coalition KOMA is recognized in the public and by the public institutions and authorities as a significant actor in the field of human rights of marginalized groups. Members from all over BiH contributed to the fact that public awareness about problems and needs of marginalized citizens was significantly increased. Media also showed strong interest for our activities, which additionally strengthened status of these activities in society. Although the most members of KOMA are from non-governmental sector, there is significant membership of public and private sector, and in order to that, we expect that number of members from that sectors will be increased.

Results that were planned for the first year of the implementation of second project's component were completely achieved. Two intensive campaigns of public advocating were successfully implemented – campaign for establishing a minimum of social security and equal possibilities, and campaign for the regulation of non-institutional support to the citizens from marginalized groups.

Document "Reform Agenda for Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period 2015-2018" that was adopted by the Council of Ministers, contains a point regarding the reform of social welfare and pensions, stating that "entities' governments, cantons' governments and Brcko district's government must improve targeting of social welfare through the package of measures that will make social welfare policies more efficient, effective and more legal. Social welfare should be in the function of those who are really in need, or those who are paying for it, and it has to be settled on the stable financial basis". That will involve accurate targeting of real needs of citizens, according to the goals of the first campaign of public advocating. Through adoption of the Reform Agenda, Council of Ministers, Government of FBiH, Government of RS and Cantons' Governments in FBiH committed that they will develop concrete initiative measures and projects for gaining settled goals.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the Government of FBiH that was held on June 18<sup>th</sup> 2015 it was adopted Working Agenda of Government of FBiH for the mandate period from 2015 to 2018. In the Working Agenda of Government were included goals that are directly connected to campaigns of public advocating that started in 2015 – campaign for the minimum of social security and equal possibilities, and campaign for the





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regulation of non-institutional support to marginalized citizens. In addition to this, in the Working Agenda of Government were also included objectives referred to social entrepreneurship.

As a result of campaigns and advocacy activities, in the Working Agenda of Government of FBiH was also planned "Establishing the unique minimum of social security for the region of FBiH, as well as including appropriate census through which will be determined existence of real social need". In the framework of that activity, it was planned a progress and adaptation of these measures/laws: Law on basis of social welfare in FBiH; Law on protection of families with children; Law on social services in FBiH; Law on changes of Law on basis of social welfare, protection of civil victims of war, and protection of families with children: Law on unique principles and the framework of financial support for the persons with disabilities, Law on unique register of users of benefits on whom contributions are not paid.

As a continuous activity, in the Programme was included "Developing a clear vision of social services model in FBiH through the development of existing social services network in the community and expansion of the network of missing services" that is directly connected to regulation of non-institutional support to marginalized citizens. In the framework of this activity, it was planned development and adoption of following measures and regulative: Public policy about protection of families with children; Public policy about social services in FBiH; Public policy about social work activities; Making an Action Plan of deinstitutionalization and transformation of institutes of social welfare in FBiH; The programme to improve the institutions for care in FBiH; Programme of co-financing associations and foundations that are doing psychosocial rehabilitation and social re-integration of psycho-active substances users; The programme of co-financing secure houses / shelters that are active in the area of FBiH in the framework of implementation of Law on protection of family violence; Implementation of Strategy of deinstitutionalization and transformation of social welfare institutions in FBiH according to the Action Plan; Implementation of activities from the Development Plan of services "Living in the community with support"; Implementation and evaluation of Action Plan for implementation Policy brief of welfare of protection of children without parental care and families at risk of separation in FBiH.

Agenda of Government of RS contains only titles of the laws that are planned to be made; and the titles of the reports and plans in particular activities. According to the Agenda of Government of RS, it was adopted "Law on changes and amendments about professional rehabilitation, trainings and employing PWD". With those amendments it was improved system of support to employing PWD, by including "work assistants" as a support to employed PWD, as well as "increasing amounts of stimulants by employing PWD, depending on a disability type". This contributes to equalization of possibilities and social inclusion of PWD.

Zeljko Volas, president of the Executive Board of Coalition KOMA participated in consultations before adopting Law in six public debates about Draft of the Law, organized by the Ministry of Labour, War Veterans and Disabled Persons' Protection; as well as other organizations of PWD and other participants of public debates organized by KOMA.

Agenda of the Government predicted in December an implementation of "Draft of the law on changes and amendments about social welfare" and "Draft of the Law on child welfare" that should be accorded to Reform Agenda and by whom it's been asked improvement of methods of targeting users of social welfare.





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SIF in BiH will, as well as KOMA in the further implementation of the project, continue to exert pressure and to lobby for making concrete steps in gaining settled objectives.

In the past year it was made a progress when it is about sustainability of Social Inclusion Foundation in BiH, although the general climate for progress and work of non-governmental organizations is still unfavourable, because of the limited financing sources (from the foreign and domestic sources), and limited possibilities of financing from alternative sources.

There is great public interest for activities of SIF in BiH, particularly as a role of KOMA's secretariat. This fact shows that external environment has started to recognize SIF in BiH as an important factor in improving status of human rights of marginalized groups in BiH. In addition to this, number of KOMA's members is constantly increasing, and in the next period the goal will be increasing a number of members from public and private sector.

### ❖ *October 2015 – October 2016: Gained results and Influence*

According to the implemented activities, there is noticeable progress in realisation of settled objectives. Establishing partnerships and cooperation between public, civil and private sector in the field of human rights of marginalized groups is a general objective that is mostly achieved through project activities. Achievement of this objective is reflected in the processes of producing relevant documents and policy briefs, as well as in monitoring of their implementation.

Specific objectives of the project are also achieved largely. Coalition KOMA is recognized in public as a significant actor in the human rights field. A large number of media appearances speak in favour, as well as media presentation of held events and following activities. According to settled objectives, it was also increased a number of KOMA's members. At the end of the past year, Coalition KOMA had 63 members, but in this very moment, Coalition has 78 members, what is significant enlargement of number of members (full list of members available at: <http://koma.ba/clanice-koalicije-koma/>).

Important result of implemented activities is also an opening a process of changing perception of citizens on marginalized groups. Participation of representatives of KOMA and its secretariat in thematic close round tables and panel discussions that are organized by other organizations was really significant in this context. In KOMA's activities, the assumption is that all the public campaigns (PR activities, street actions, etc.) represent a powerful tool for forming public opinion that, in addition to public advocating, leads to public policies improvement. Considering the complexity of government structure in BiH, it has always been long-term process, where short-term results are not possible. KOMA opened a process of law change, making new strategies, etc., that is included in official policies of the government in BiH. Their realisation (law changing) and implementation will enable sustainable and long-term results in the field of improvement of human rights and social status of marginalized groups.

According to implemented activities, a great progress was achieved in the second component of the project. General objective is to, through four campaigns of public advocating; make visible steps in solving key problems in the human rights field. As a result of these campaigns, it is planned that certain measures and



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policies will be included in agenda of executive bodies and legislature. According to that, implementation of the campaigns has influence on adoption of acts and their implementation in order to solve problems.

First two public advocacy campaigns achieved important starting results. In the Agenda of Government of FBiH were included measures for improvement of social entrepreneurship. Canton Sarajevo also adopted important measures for social entrepreneurship through its Development strategy 2015-2020. It is important to mention that Action Plan of the Government of FBiH planned adopting for the end of 2016 a new law on basis of social welfare for the FBiH in whose draft is contained concept of minimum of the social security and accurate targeting of users.

Considering the complexity of procedures at decision makers and processes of changes of law, and adopting new laws, amendments and strategies, specific objectives are partly gained. Advocacy activities are continued. In the Agenda of Government of FBiH for the mandatory period from 2015 to 2018 are included measures directed to minimum of social security and equal possibilities, as well as to regulation of non-institutional support to citizens from marginalized groups. Creating and adopting strategy for social entrepreneurship development will be on the Working Agenda of Government of FBiH in the next year, and currently it is on the agendas of the executive authorities and legislature.

According to the settled objectives, for the SIF in BiH, sustainability is reflected through four components: strengthening organizational sustainability by developing human resources; programme and project sustainability by establishing partnerships and cooperation in BiH and region; financial sustainability by strengthening capacities for fundraising from donors and from alternative sources of funds; influencing the external environment so as to contribute to increasing social awareness about the problems of human rights of marginalized individuals and groups.

Improving internal structures and capacity building is an important consideration when it comes to the sustainability of the organization, as well as the openness of local and international donors to support projects in the social sector, in line with the vision and mission of the organization. These two aspects are interdependent; internal capacity cannot be strengthened without projects.

SIF in BiH successfully completed its work on the financial sustainability by finalizing Study about social entrepreneurship for the Development Planning Institute of Canton Sarajevo, as well as by sending project proposal "Advocacy campaign – Overcoming discrimination against persons with disabilities based on the causes of disability between war and non-war PWD" to Mediacycenter. This project proposal has been accepted and its implementation has started on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2016.

### ❖ *October 2016 – October 2018: Gained results and Influence*

The SIF in BiH has laid the foundations for the continuation of project activities in the future, and has upgraded, expanded and shared the existing knowledge with others. The sector of human rights - marginalized groups of the CSSP project is the most recognizable through the Coalition of marginalized groups in BiH "KOMA". Through networking and connecting NGOs with the private and public sector and



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international institutions, through the implementation of public advocacy campaigns, cooperation has been created aimed at contributing to the improvement of public policies and improving the quality of life of marginalized groups. Through organization of activities such as round tables, conferences, public debates, street actions and many others, public awareness of the problems of marginalized groups has increased, they are familiar with their rights and opportunities to improve them. The representatives of the government were directly acquainted with the existing problems, and through discussions and conclusions from the events held, they were provided with recommendations for improving the current situation. Short-term goals have been fully achieved: the analysis of the priority problems of the sector has been successfully carried out every year.

Coalition membership is a continuous activity and the number of members is continually increasing and at that moment of time, KOMA gathered 103 members. A number of continuous coordination activities are ongoing, including regular communication with members, maintenance of the websites, Facebook and Twitter profiles of KOMA and Secretariat of KOMA (SIF in BiH and IBHI), YouTube channel, etc.

All four public advocacy campaigns have been launched in the first two years of implementation of the project and all have been successfully continued and their activities' implementation has been carried out in accordance with the set goals. Progress has been made in the area of preparation and implementation of activities, which is confirmed by a large number of participants at the events, in particular of the government representatives, as well as by the presence in the media. In the previous year, the focus was on the first (Establishing a minimum social security and equal opportunities) and the third campaign (Adopting new policies and measures in the area of social entrepreneurship), and partly on the fourth public advocacy campaign (Adopting amendments to the Election Law in the domain of electoral rights of national minorities).

In the period from November 2016 to February 2017, the research "Analysis of Needs, Rights and Status of Persons with Disabilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina" was conducted among PwD organizations, enterprises employing PwD, and individuals interested in this field. The mentioned research was presented at press conferences and round tables "Analysis of Needs, Rights and Status of Persons with Disabilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina" held on March 22, 2017 in Sarajevo and April 5, 2017 in Banja Luka. The analysis represents a good tool and instrument in the fight for human rights, especially of people with disabilities.

The important results of the advocacy campaign "Regulation of non-institutional support to the citizens from marginalized groups" refer to the actualization and inclusion in the Program of work of the Government of FBiH of the document "Action Plan for de-institutionalization and transformation of social protection institutions in FBiH 2014-2020" during 2016. It is also planned that the Federal Ministry Labor and Social Policy in accordance with the Action Plan, prepare the Strategy for its implementation. The important results of the advocacy campaign "Adoption of new policies and measures in the field of social entrepreneurship" refer to the fact that measures for the improvement of social entrepreneurship have been included in the Program of work of the Government of the FBiH 2015- 2018, which is a significant step in the planning of activities related to the beginning of work on the drafting of the Strategy social entrepreneurship.

As part of the project "Advocacy Campaign - Prevention of Discrimination of Persons with Disabilities (PwD) Based on the Causes of Disability Between War and Non-War PwD", the Social Inclusion Foundation in Bosnia in Herzegovina (SIF in BiH) has implemented activities aimed at advocating for a consistent implementation of the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination in BiH through elimination of discrimination between war and non-war persons with disabilities based on the causes of disability. Given that there is a



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large difference between war and non-war PwDs in BiH, this campaign was aimed at drawing attention to the existing discrimination and advocating for the consistent implementation of the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination in BiH. The project was implemented in the period from September 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. The funds to finance the above program were provided by the U.S. Government agency (USAID) and Open Society Fund BiH in the framework of the third cycle of project Equality for everyone – Civil society coalition against discrimination”, aimed at supporting active role of the civil society organizations to fight against discrimination and implementation of the anti-discrimination legal framework in BiH. Programme activities are implemented by MEDIACENTAR Sarajevo in cooperation with Centre for Social Research Analitika, Association Rights for All and Your Rights BiH.

### ❖ *October 2018 – November 2021: Gained results and Influence*

The most important project for the SIF in BiH for the period 2018-2021 was “Build up for Social Inclusion Advocacy Platform in Bosnia and Herzegovina #BuildUp4SIAPinBiH-Will You Stop and Listen”, supported by the Delegation of the European Union to BiH and UNICEF in BiH. Implementation has begun in November 2018 and ended in June 2021.

Project accomplished its objective to contribute to better networking of the civil society organizations (CSOs) in their strive for social inclusion of marginalized people, more visible representation of interests and needs of the marginalized groups and their presence in social policies and modern strategies relevant for the EU integration processes

We gained significant progress in realization of all goals settled in the framework of project and all its outcomes through implementation of four complementary packages/components: Research and analysis of current needs and core document development, Capacity-building and deepening the networking of the cross-sector network Coalition of Marginalized Groups in BiH “KOMA”, Social Inclusion Advocacy Activities and Visibility and communication activities with total of 20 outputs and many more actions of different scope, size and value.

SIF in BiH and its partner organization IBHI as project team worked with the Coalition of Marginalized Groups in BiH “KOMA” on utilization of their competences enhanced through series of trainings (5), for advocacy and lobbying at round tables (3) and SWOT/PEST workshops (3) which resulted with practical inputs and considerations of factors such as poverty, exclusion, inequality, social status, housing and environmental and political conditions that have a major impact on health and well-being, for finalization of social inclusion strategies for FBiH, RS and Brčko District.

Project managed to improve capacities of the CSOs network ‘KOMA’ which membership has increased to 121 members (full list of members available at: [https://koma.ba/bos/Clanice/Clanice\\_koalicije\\_KOMA](https://koma.ba/bos/Clanice/Clanice_koalicije_KOMA)), to effectively participate in developing social policies (Social Inclusion Strategies) and advocating for their adoption, through wide and innovative media/advocacy campaign, which contributed significantly to raising awareness about the rights of marginalized populations in BiH public.

Project capitalized on efforts invested in development of two policy papers which preceded the study “The Foundation and Guidelines for Developing Social Inclusion Strategies at the Entities and Brčko District



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level” that represents an umbrella title for compilation of three separate modern social inclusion strategies created for the FBiH, RS and BD BiH prepared by policy experts using the harmonized methodology for all.

First Policy Paper „Towards the European Union – Key Social Inclusion Issues in BiH” aimed to define the approach and concept of social inclusion strategies, taking into account the global situation and the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and, more specifically, the process of accession of BiH to the European Union which requires developing social inclusion policies. An analysis of core social inclusion issues focuses on identification of several fundamental problems faced by vulnerable groups, an examination of causes and consequences and an overview of public policies (strategies, laws) of importance for social inclusion. This supported our overall goal: to strengthen the involvement of marginalized groups in advocacy and in the preparation of social inclusion strategies. First Policy Paper available at: <https://www.sif.ba/dok/1564063775.pdf>

Second Policy Paper “Towards the European Union – Recommendations for Improving Social Inclusion in Bosnia and Herzegovina” contains the analysis of the genesis of the development of social inclusion policies and their role in the overall strategies of the European Union, such as Europe 2020 and towards a sustainable EU 2030. Particular attention was paid to the open method of coordination and its implementation in BiH. For the first time in BiH, in the context of social inclusion, the negative impact of natural disasters is also analysed. Also, special attention was given to the EU recommendations regarding the BiH reforms presented in the European Commission's Opinion on BiH's application for EU membership (29.05.2019). Second Policy Paper available at: <https://sif.ba/Documents/Second%20policy%20paper-%20Towards%20European%20Union%20%20Recommendations%20for%20Improving%20Social%20Inclusion%20in%20BiH.pdf>

Preparation of social inclusion strategies for FBiH, RS and BD BiH was advancing as planned regardless of challenges caused by COVID-19 pandemic, in full collaboration with competent FBiH, RS and BD BiH ministries. All three strategies, namely those of the Federation of BiH, the Republika Srpska and the Brčko District of BiH, are harmonized, aimed at addressing the following key issues of social inclusion: Social position of children and youth, especially in the context of the demographic decline; Poverty and the necessity for reducing it through social inclusion policies; People with disabilities and the fight for a society of equal opportunities; Gender causes of social exclusion; Elderly people and a return to a dignified life without poverty and Ethnic causes of social exclusion and the importance of full national equality. Social inclusion strategies available at the following links: Federation of BiH- [https://sif.ba/Documents/Publikacije/2021/SSU\\_FBiH\\_2021\\_2027\\_eng.pdf](https://sif.ba/Documents/Publikacije/2021/SSU_FBiH_2021_2027_eng.pdf); Republika Srpska- [https://sif.ba/Documents/Publikacije/2021/SSU\\_RS\\_2021\\_2027\\_eng.pdf](https://sif.ba/Documents/Publikacije/2021/SSU_RS_2021_2027_eng.pdf); Brčko District of BiH- [https://sif.ba/Documents/Publikacije/2021/SIS\\_BD\\_BiH\\_2021\\_2027\\_eng.pdf](https://sif.ba/Documents/Publikacije/2021/SIS_BD_BiH_2021_2027_eng.pdf)

Implementation of the Project Communication and Visibility Plan has been very successful through use of digital social platforms for contemporary communication with youth primarily, but also with various audiences that participate in fight for equality in choices and opportunities, societal and economic security and non-discrimination. The Media campaign was continuous on portals, newspapers, TV and SIF in BiH YouTube channel.

Six young persons with disabilities was engaged in a filmmaking of a documentary “Will You Stop and Listen” within the public awareness campaign and shared their life stories enriched with successes. Their stamina, determination and enthusiasm are contagious and they received grandiose endorsements from the audiences during the movie premieres in Sarajevo City Hall and National Theatre of RS in Banja Luka, after broadcasting on TV stations, at the grand opening of the international film festival "Catch the film"





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as well as from their fans online. Within the project SIF in BiH created a “Will You Stop and Listen” original campaign song.

Project was also promoted through placement of the created products such as video spot “Will You Stop and Listen”, virtual infographic video “Will You Stop and Listen - Why social inclusion matters?” outlining basic concepts of relevance to social inclusion; five Stories in Focus and two video Compilations - “Will You Stop and Listen”.

During 32 months of project realization the project has achieved its specific objectives and allowed effective participation of CSOs representing marginalized groups in creating and advocating for three Social Inclusion Strategies in BiH, improved capacities and visibility of the Coalition of Marginalized Groups in BiH – KOMA”, ensured cooperation between various stakeholders dealing with social welfare reforms in BiH (including CSOs, social enterprises, public institutions, academia, media and experts) and posted social inclusion high on public agenda in BiH and connecting social inclusion reforms with actual policies critical for the EU integration processes of BiH.

Moreover, in the period 2018-2021 SIF in BiH implemented two projects supported by the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in BiH- The Role of the Marginalized Groups in the Reconciliation Process in Bosnia and Herzegovina (October 2018 – May 2019) and Building Capacities of CSOs to Actively Advocate for the role of Marginalized Groups in the process of EU accession (October 2020-April 2021).

The aim of the project “The Role of the Marginalized Groups in the Reconciliation Process in Bosnia and Herzegovina” was to promote, advocate and directly influence the process of reconciliation in BiH with a bottom-up approach in gathering of the vulnerable and marginalized individuals and groups (persons with disabilities, children, elderly people, women, national/ethnic minorities, LGBT population, etc.) through a mutual support and common aims regardless of their ethnicity.

This project was envisioned as a communication effort intended for creation of a meaningful social movement of the marginalized and jeopardized groups in the reconciliation work in BiH. The project managed to bring the attention to reconciliation process that has lasted too long, and obviously more was done on confrontation than on reconciliation. It has managed to emphasize the need to find a new bearer of this social process, the one who has a common interest in peace, stability, cooperation and communion, which are all synonymous with reconciliation. The joint activities have ensured dialogue mechanisms for marginalized and vulnerable citizens and groups that enable reconciliation process in BiH. The documents produced within the project were done through the mutual cooperation and inclusive, open process, ensuring the participation of all interested parties through open method of coordination, ensuring the involvement of all stakeholders.

On the basis of previously made consultations with key actors, the Declaration entitled “Declaration of marginalized groups- Complete the reconciliation process-we already have!” has been prepared in April 2019. An online petition for the signing of the Declaration was also created in April 2019. Declaration was presented in two advocacy-for reconciliation workshops, in Banja Luka and Sarajevo. A total of 36 participants at both workshops were members of marginalized groups, public institutions, academia, international organizations, citizens and media, and actively discussed and contributed to the workshop's conclusions. The participants of the workshop gave valuable inputs on the content of the Action plan (also created within the project) for the realization of the goals of the Declaration of marginalized groups in BiH. The Action plan gave a detailed instruction and steps with mitigation factors for the implementation of the Declaration in political and constitutional setting of BiH.



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Two street actions have been organized in Sarajevo and Bužim for signing of the Declaration. The petition, through the Book of Signatures, street actions and personal contact with stakeholders, was signed by over 370 persons.

The fifth KOMA Convention was held during the project in Sarajevo. 47 people from whole BiH, KOMA members and guests, participated. SIF in BiH presented the Action Plan for the realization of the goals of the Declaration of marginalized groups in BiH and the Declaration of marginalized groups in BiH and Action plan were unanimously adopted at the Convention.

The visibility of the project activities was achieved through a very transparent and effective campaign throughout the project, through the use of various audiovisual and informative techniques and tools, such as human interest stories, story-telling video, and thematic dialogue format show. This project campaign was very well received and greatly influenced the perception of diversity and coexistence from the perspective of marginalized groups, as well as the importance of recognizing them in the reconciliation process in BiH.

The aim of the project “Building Capacities of CSOs to Actively Advocate for the role of Marginalized Groups in the process of EU accession” was to increase the engagement, develop capacities and increase the awareness of civil society organizations representing marginalized groups in BiH to advocate for policies that serve them and interact with representatives of institutions especially in the context of EU accession, and their active participation in policy making.

Results ‘Empowered civil society organizations representing marginalized groups in BiH to promote, address and advocate for the civic, participatory and inclusive EU accession process’ and ‘Increased awareness of the CSOs representing marginalized groups in BiH on the importance of their role in EU accession process’ were completely achieved. Besides building CSOs’ capacities, the project has also given a space to the target groups to tell their personal stories and engage all relevant actors in this communication and awareness raising effort. The methodology behind this communication approach consisted of the following activities: Strong PR and social media campaign; a story-telling video produced in order to depict cooperation among marginalized, vulnerable citizens emphasizing their common struggle for uphold of their human rights and fundamental freedoms and why joining the EU would be beneficial; Info-graphics on the social rights in the light of EU accession process; Trainings (Targeted communication and building advocacy plans, How to use social networks for digital advocacy); Developed interactive toolkit-webinar on advocacy for CSOs representing marginalized groups; VI Convention of the Coalition of Marginalized Groups in BiH – KOMA. Story-telling video available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9QJrRb99ZU&t=2s>; Toolkit-webinar on advocacy available at: [https://sif.ba/eng/News/Clanak/SIF in BiH PRESENTS TOOLKIT WEBINAR FOR CSOS REPRESENTING MARGINALIZED GROUPS](https://sif.ba/eng/News/Clanak/SIF_in_BiH_PRESENTS_TOOLKIT_WEBINAR_FOR_CSOS_REPRESENTING_MARGINALIZED_GROUPS).

The sixth KOMA Convention was held as a combined event due to the circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic-some of the participants attended this event online, and some of the participants live at the hotel hall in Sarajevo. The convention was attended by 68 participants from whole BiH. SIF in BiH has presented the Story-telling video “Make it louder”, Toolkit-webinar on advocacy (6:44 minute long video and 6 static graphics on “How to”), animated video for Social media campaign for enforcement of the Action plan for the implementation of the goals of the Declaration of Marginalized Groups in BiH and six project info-graphics. Report from the sixth Convention of the Coalition of Marginalized Groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina “KOMA” available at: [https://sif.ba/Documents/Report from VI Convention of KOMA.pdf](https://sif.ba/Documents/Report_from_VI_Convention_of_KOMA.pdf).





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### Measurement of Outcomes

According to the UN Global Compact Ten Principles and to the mission and vision of the Social Inclusion Foundation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, we hereby certify that we have gained a lot in the past years. Human rights of the marginalized groups and activities regarding the labour of targeted categories are the main principles that we are implementing in our work. Engagement of the SIF in BiH regarding these principles is reflected in the following outcomes:

- SIF in BiH formed Coalition of the marginalized groups KOMA that gathers 121 members from the civil, public and private sector (full list of members available at: [https://koma.ba/bos/Clanice/Clanice\\_koalicije\\_KOMA](https://koma.ba/bos/Clanice/Clanice_koalicije_KOMA)). Coalition is aimed at establishing cooperation among these sectors. As we already mentioned, SIF in BiH performs a role of the KOMA's secretariat and organizes and conducts activities aimed at the promotion of human rights of marginalized groups in BiH.
- We were conducting four campaigns of public advocating with our partners. Campaigns were aimed at the improvement and respecting human rights of the marginalized groups. In order to that, we were advocating with the decision makers in BiH, and results are visible:
- We opened a process of law change, making new strategies, etc., that is included in official policies of the government in BiH. Their realisation (law changing) and implementation enable sustainable and long-term results in the field of improvement of human rights and social status of marginalized groups;
- First two public advocacy campaigns achieved important starting results. In the Agenda of Government of FBiH were included measures for improvement of social entrepreneurship. Canton Sarajevo also adopted important measures for social entrepreneurship development through its Cantonal Development strategy 2015-2020;
- The campaign for improvement of social entrepreneurship was noticeable in public, and it has initiated few conferences on this topic, that were organized in the framework of other projects and organizations soon after the beginning of our campaign. Federal Ministry of Development, Entrepreneurship and Crafts has begun with the preparation of incentive measures for development of social entrepreneurship, using the documents and recommendations of SIF in BiH, and its partner organization;
- Recommendations from the conference “We have also right to choose – Changes and amendments of the Electoral Law – human rights of the national minorities and others” that were delivered to all the members of Interdepartmental working group of the Parliament Assembly of BiH for the changes and amendments of the Electoral law of BiH, were adopted on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016.



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- As one of the most important results and achievements, was the research and SIF in BiH document "Analysis of the needs, rights and the position of persons with disabilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina" completed in February 2017, which has been also conducted by the representatives of the academic community and Entity funds for professional rehabilitation and employment of PwD.
- The important results of the advocacy campaign "Regulation of non-institutional support to the citizens from marginalized groups" referred to the actualization and inclusion in the Program of work of the Government of FBiH of the document "Action Plan for de-institutionalization and transformation of social protection institutions in FBiH 2014-2020" during 2016. It was also planned that the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Policy in accordance with the Action Plan, prepare the Strategy for its implementation.
- SIF in BiH participated in the drafting of the Employment Strategy of the FBiH 2017-2020 in parts related to the development of social entrepreneurship (Social Entrepreneurship Law, precise Public Policy Support for Social Entrepreneurship, Cooperative, Center for Development of Social Entrepreneurship, etc.).
- The document "Recommendations for the Consistent Implementation of the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination of BiH in the field of disability in FBiH" has been prepared.
- The "Declaration of marginalized groups- Complete the reconciliation process-we already have!" and Action plan for the realization of the goals of the Declaration have been prepared.
- Civil society organizations that represent marginalized groups in BiH are strengthened to promote, address and advocate civic, participative and inclusive reconciliation efforts in BiH based on their mutual fight for the protection of human rights and the fundamental freedoms they lack and they are empowered to address and advocate for the civic, participatory and inclusive EU accession process.
- Two policy papers „Towards the European Union – Key Social Inclusion Issues in BiH” and “Towards the European Union – Recommendations for Improving Social Inclusion in Bosnia and Herzegovina” have been prepared and engaged approx. 1/2 out of total number of 121 KOMA members to address real societal needs in both entities and Brčko as a ground for the preparation of Social Inclusion Strategies FBiH, RS and BD BiH 2021-2027.
- Three modern Social Inclusion Strategies at the entities and Brčko District of BiH levels, in accordance with constitutional competencies, for the period 2021-2027, which are in line with EU standards have been created. All three strategies are aimed at solving key problems of social inclusion in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- The expertly prepared strategies initiated their official preparation and adoption. The Parliament of the Federation of BiH did this through the “Federation of BiH Strategy of Development of the 2021-2027” (adopted on February 18, 2021), which specifies the tentative preparation and adoption of the specific “Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Social Inclusion Strategy for 2021-2027”. The Assembly of the Brčko District of BiH adopted the Strategy of Development of the 2021-2027, which also included the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina Social Inclusion



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Strategy for 2021-2027. The Government of Republika Srpska is preparing the “Republika Srpska Strategy for the Development of Social Protection 2021-2027”, with the agreement on the use of the Republika Srpska Social Inclusion Strategy for 2021-2027.

- Wider understanding and awareness of how mainstreaming social inclusion might be integrated into social policies critical for the EU integration processes of BiH.
- Strong awareness raising campaigns (Documentary movie, song, stories in focus, spot, story telling videos) affected the change of attitudes towards inclusion and openness in Bosnia and Herzegovina.