

REPATRIATION PLAN AND PROGRAMME FOR REINTEGRATION, REHABILITATION AND RE-SOCIALISATION OF RETURNING NATIONALS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA FROM THE CONFLICT AREAS IN SYRIA AND IRAQ

INTRODUCTION

The Repatriation Plan and the Programme for Reintegration, Rehabilitation and Re-socialisation of nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina returning from the conflict areas in Syria and Iraq are the result of the work of the Coordination Team in preparation for the process of repatriation, reintegration and re-socialisation of nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the conflict areas in Syria and Iraq (hereinafter: Coordination Team). The process itself entails drafting of:

Repatriation Plan detailing the procedures for a safe, humane and controlled return of nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina from Syria and Iraq, security checks, establishing identity and nationality of persons subject to repatriation, provision of diplomatic-consular, legal and humanitarian assistance to nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina (hereinafter: Plan); and

Reintegration, Rehabilitation and Re-socialisation Programme for all categories of nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina, containing short, medium and long-term security measures, health and social protection measures, access to education, economic support and employment, legal assistance in the local community and other necessary measures (hereinafter: Programme).

When drafting the Plan and the Programme, the Coordination Team was guided by international standards, the applicable legal regulations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Information of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina on nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the conflict areas of Syria and Iraq and adopted conclusions with a view to their repatriation¹, as well as the Key Recommendations of the International Committee of the Red Cross concerning the repatriation and reintegration of persons from Syria and Iraq.

In addition, as part of its tasks and portfolio division, the Coordination Team was further formed into sub-teams, as follows:

- Sub-Team for Security Aspects of Repatriation and Criminal Prosecution;
- Sub-Team for Reintegration, Rehabilitation and Re-Socialisation.

¹ 29th session of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, held on 4 March 2021.

Following their formation, the sub-teams were assigned specific tasks and deadlines for execution according to the planned activities.

The Coordination Team comprises representatives of competent institutions/agencies from all levels of government in Bosnia and Herzegovina including the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Intelligence and Security Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA), the Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies, the FBiH Police Administration, the Ministry of Interior of Republika Srpska, the Police of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the competent Entity and authorities of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the area of health, social protection and education.

The Repatriation Plan and the Programme for Reintegration, Rehabilitation and Re-socialisation of nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina returning from the conflict areas in Syria and Iraq is to be adopted in order to ensure the necessary conditions for the safe, humane and controlled return of nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina from Syria and Iraq and their reintegration, rehabilitation and re-socialisation.

The Repatriation Plan details the procedures for a safe, humane and controlled return of nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina from Syria and Iraq, security checks, establishing identity and nationality of persons subject to repatriation, provision of diplomatic-consular, legal and humanitarian assistance to nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Reintegration, Rehabilitation and Re-socialisation Programme for all categories of nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina spells out short, medium and long-term security measures, health and social protection measures, access to education, economic support and employment, legal assistance in the local community and other necessary measures.

The Plan and the Programme also provide an overview of the activities carried out so far in dealing with returnees from conflict areas, progress and results, as well as a monitoring and reporting mechanism to follow-up on their implementation.

PAST AND PRESENT ENGAGEMENT ON REPATRIATION AND REINTEGRATION

From 2012 to 2016, when the last departure of one individual from Bosnia and Herzegovina was recorded, a total of between 250 and 300 nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina went to the conflict areas of Syria and Iraq. Of this number, some 55% are men, 25% are women and 20% are minors (up to 18 years of age, noting that certain minors have in the meantime become of age).²

To the best of the knowledge of the competent institutions, 62 adults and 22 children are considered to have returned to Bosnia and Herzegovina so far (eight children whose parents are nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina or are originally from Bosnia and Herzegovina have returned to other countries).

According to operational data, there are currently 82 nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the territory of Syria and Iraq, 42 of whom are men and 40 women.³

Of this number, 28 nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina are in the Syrian region of Idlib, ten women and 18 men and 11 minors. Currently there is no reliable data on two nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In north-east Syria, 52 nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina are located in Al Hol and Roj refugee camps and detention units, 22 of whom are men and 30 women with 66 minors (118 in total).⁴ One minor without mother is imprisoned.

There are also 24 children in these camps, whose one parent is a national of Bosnia and Herzegovina. These are children whose fathers, nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina, died in Syria, and the children are in these camps with their mothers, foreign nationals.

² An overview of statistical data based on information received by the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the competent agencies over the past period, and given the fact that this is highly volatile operational data due to extremely complex situation, the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina notes a likelihood of changes in data. More available in the Information of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina on nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina present in the conflict areas of Syria and Iraq and the Conclusions adopted with a view to their repatriation at the 29th session of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, held on 4 March 2021.

³ Data relating to the number of nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina in conflict areas refers to unconfirmed operational intelligence and is of a variable nature.

⁴ The Plan and the Programme will cover the return of nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina from camps and detention units.

First wave of returns

The first returns from the Syrian-Iraq conflict areas were recorded in late 2012. Most of these were individuals who had stayed in Syria for a short period. Some of them returned to Bosnia and Herzegovina for a brief period of time – only to bring their spouses and families back to Syria. These were mainly individual, unorganised returns and in rare cases extradition or expulsion from Turkey. In this first wave, by 2019, around 30 men and several women and children returned and remained in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Most men were deprived of liberty and charged with terrorist-related offences or of joining foreign militia and para-police formations. Those convicted rarely received a term of imprisonment of more than 3 years (on average 26 months, that is, 2 years and 2 months on average).

It is common for all individuals in the first wave that they were not covered by any specific measures or support for rehabilitation and re-socialisation in their home communities. They were reintegrated mainly into their primary families and local communities. They rarely sought help from social welfare centres, and even less frequently (if at all) mental health centres. Apart from security agencies, very few know or take into account the whereabouts of these individuals, how they live, what problems they encounter and how their living circumstances in Bosnia and Herzegovina can contribute to their possible recidivism, or engagement in the promotion of ideological narratives that once drove them to Syria and Iraq.

A subsequent examination of the registered residences of these individuals suggests the greatest distribution of the first wave in the following cantons/municipalities in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina⁵:

ZENICA DOBOJ CANTON
Zenica Kakanj Žepče/Željezno polje Maglaj Tešanj Doboj jug Olovo
SARAJEVO CANTON
Ilidža

⁵ Mapping of challenges in the process of returning nationals from foreign war and conflict areas to Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH-specific) and available resources for their reception, rehabilitation, reintegration and re-socialisation, PC2-A2 of the FBiH Government Action Plan for Preventing and Countering Terrorism.

Hadžići Vogošća
TUZLA CANTON
Gračanica Kalesija
CENTRAL BOSNIA CANTON
Travnik Vitez
UNA SANA CANTON
Bužim Velika Kladuša
REPUBLIKA SRPSKA
Teslić Zvornik
BRČKO DISTRICT of BiH

Second wave of returns

The above mainly individual returns, mostly ended in 2016 and 2017, when the departure of nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Syria was suspended in entirety.

The next important milestone in the return process was the first organised repatriation of a group of nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the conflict areas of Syria and Iraq in December 2019.

Having established the conditions for the return of the first group of nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the conflict areas of Syria and Iraq and the pressing need to react urgently and ensure the necessary conditions for their reception, on 29 November 2019, the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted the Conclusion on the need for coordinated action by all competent structures to ensure safe and humane return and re-socialisation of the first group of women and children from Syria.

Following the adoption of the Conclusion, the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with other competent ministries, launched initial activities to facilitate further legal preconditions for the implementation of the Conclusions of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Given that it was essential to provide facilities for the reception of these individuals upon arrival in Bosnia and Herzegovina, at the request of the Minister of Security of Bosnia and

Herzegovina, an extraordinary phone session of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina took place on 6 December 2019. The Conclusion was adopted: ‘The Minister of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina is mandated to adopt a Decision on disposal of capacities of the asylum centre in Delijaš for the reception and temporary accommodation of nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina (women and children) returnees from Syria’. The above Decision by the Minister of Security was adopted on the same day.

After a positive identification of a total of six women, 12 children and seven men (with active warrants against them, extradited to the Prosecutor’s Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina) and the necessary conditions met for their transport, activities were initiated to set up teams for the reception, identification, social and medical care of returnees, with the full involvement of all competent structures in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in accordance with legally prescribed competences.

In accordance with their respective competences, the following agencies/institutions participated in the activities listed above:		
NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS	ENTITY INSTITUTIONS	CANTONAL/LOCAL INSTITUTIONS
Prosecutor’s Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Office of the Prime Minister of the Federation of BiH	Sarajevo Canton MoI
Ministry of Security of BiH	FBiH Police Directorate	Zenica Dobož Canton MoI
BiH Intelligence and Security Agency	FBiH Ministry of Health	Tuzla Canton MoI
BiH Border Police	FBiH Ministry of Labour and Social Policy	Ministry of Health SC (Sarajevo Health Centre and Institute for Emergency Medical Aid SC)
State Investigation and Protection Agency – SIPA	Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior	SC Ministry of Education
Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies		SC Social Welfare Centre
BiH Ministry of Foreign Affairs		Zenica Social Welfare Centre
BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs		Čelić Social Welfare Centre

Returnee profile

As part of an organised repatriation on 19 December 2019, a total of six women returning with their biological children were returned from the conflict areas of Syria and Iraq. The average age of returnees was 33. Women had between two and three minor children, one of the returnees being without minor children, but she was the mother of one of the returnees.

Also, 12 minor children (one unaccompanied child) were between one and eight years old. The gender balance was 58 % of boys and 42 % of girls.

On arrival at Sarajevo International Airport, seven men with an active warrant against them were immediately escorted to the premises of the Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina (5) and the premises of the State Investigation and Protection Agency (2), and were subsequently convicted by a final judgment of any of the terrorism-related offences or joining foreign paramilitary or parapolice organisations (on average less than three years in prison).

Returnees were from different parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, distributed in the following cantons/municipalities in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina:

UNA SANA CANTON
Velika Kladuša
ZENICA DOBOJ CANTON
Zenica Zavidovići
SARAJEVO CANTON
Hadžići Novi Grad
TUZLA CANTON
Čelić

Repatriation

- 1) At the time of the organised repatriation, that is, the arrival of nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the conflict areas to Sarajevo International Airport, reception and identification procedures were carried out by the competent institutions, as were medical examination of all returnees and an interview. Given the active warrants against men, they were handed over to the Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina, whereas, in the context of those procedures, social workers proceeded with preparing the social anamnesis of women returnees.
- 2) On the spot, the identity of all adults was confirmed to find that they were nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina, returnees from conflict areas who did not pose a risk to public health, with no need for their hospitalisation. In addition, returnees voluntarily accepted accommodation in the Delijaš reception centre for further medical examinations in particular of their children, which included immunisation and further psychosocial assistance.
- 3) An unaccompanied minor whose parents were killed in Syria was handed over to the Social Welfare Centre upon arrival and was placed in the family with assigned guardianship.
- 4) On the same day on arrival, and following the above procedures at Sarajevo International Airport, six women and 11 of their children were transported to the Delijaš Asylum Centre, where they spent a total of nine days.
- 5) They and their children were provided accommodation, hygienic supplies and food on arrival at Delijaš Asylum Centre. During the 9-day stay with returnees and their children, an official of the Counter-Terrorism Department of the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina remained on site throughout and coordinated all activities carried out.
- 6) During the stay at the Centre, the day-to-day cooperation with social services took place, assessing the socioeconomic circumstances of the family and preparing them for their return to the family. Cooperation was also carried out with healthcare professionals through medical examinations and psychological assistance of returnees, as well as police and intelligence services through regular meetings and interviews at the Centre.

Reintegration

DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE OF REINTEGRATION:

- 1) Following the successful completion of an organised process for repatriation of nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the conflict areas and the nine-day stay of returnees at the Delijaš Asylum Centre, conditions were met for their return to their home families, that is, home addresses from which they went to conflict areas.
- 2) In reception of women and children in the second wave, women returning were accommodated according to the last registered residence and the responsibility of the social welfare centres upon such registration. Some of them asked to be accommodated with their husband's parents, but this would mean that they would lose (at least for some time) their entitlement to social protection outside their declared place of residence. As a result, as well as the fact that the alleged marriages were not legally concluded – all returnees were returned to their primary families.
- 3) Competent social welfare centres and mental health centres continued to provide psychological and social support to returnees and their children, conducted interviews and organised targeted expert consultations.

Third (expected) wave of returns

In the territory (mostly) controlled by the Kurdish Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), there are 52 nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina in prisons and camps, 22 of which are men and 30 women, and 66 minor children aged 2 to 17 (a total of 118).

These persons are a potential third wave of returnees. Although it is not yet clear at this stage whether, when, in what way (in larger or smaller groups or all at once) this person will return to Bosnia and Herzegovina, this group is considered a potential third wave of returnees.

According to unverified operational intelligence, a number of nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina who had left for the conflict areas from countries outside of Bosnia and Herzegovina are in these camps. As nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina, it is possible they would express their intention to return to Bosnia and Herzegovina to an unknown location.

The Sub-Team for Security Aspects of Repatriation and Criminal Prosecution, based on information from the competent institutions, has mapped the local communities to which these persons will return.

FEDERATION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	TUZLA CANTON
	local community/municipality: Tuzla, Srebrenik, Gradačac, Gračanica, Živinice and Kladanj
	SARAJEVO CANTON
	local community/municipality: Sarajevo, Hadžići and Ilidža
	ZENICA DOBOJ CANTON
	local community/municipality: Zenica, Maglaj, Tešanj, Kakanj, Breza
	UNA SANA CANTON
	local community/municipality: Velika Kladuša, Bosanska Krupa, Cazin and Bužim
	CENTRAL BOSNIA CANTON
local community/municipality: Donji Vakuf and Bugojno	
REPUBLIKA SRPSKA	Prijedor and Doboj
BRČKO DISTRICT OF	Brčko

PROGRESS AND RESULTS SO FAR:

Prosecution and sanction

Out of the total number of returnees mentioned above, some were not prosecuted due to lack of evidence on their membership in terrorist organisations, as well as their return to Bosnia and Herzegovina before the entry into force of the addendum to the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina sanctioning participation in foreign military warfare.

Women returning from the conflict areas of Syria and Iraq to Bosnia and Herzegovina were not prosecuted due to lack of evidence that they participated in combat actions, but they did take part in judicial proceedings before the competent bodies in Bosnia and Herzegovina as witnesses.

In criminal proceedings, 28 nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina were prosecuted and sentenced by final judgment in Bosnia and Herzegovina due to their participation in and links to the departures to the Syrian/Iraq war. Other returnees were also prosecuted, but there were no final convictions. Also, criminal proceedings are still ongoing for some of them. The prison sentences imposed range from one to six years.

Deliverables and lessons learned in the process of reintegration, rehabilitation and re-socialisation of returnees from conflict areas

- In preparation for repatriation of remaining nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina from Syria, the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina has drawn up and submitted to the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina Information on the nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina present in the camps in Syria and Iraq, with a proposal for conclusions with a view to their repatriation. **This information was adopted in March 2021 and the process of drawing conclusions and preparing activities for repatriation started;**
- Following on the proposal by the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and under the Decision of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the **Coordination Team** was appointed as an interdepartmental expert body of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina to develop systems and procedures for safe, humane and controlled return and reception of nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the conflict area of Syria and Iraq and to coordinate the process of their repatriation;
- The Coordination Team has developed a **repatriation plan detailing procedures for safe, humane and controlled return of nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina from Syria and Iraq**, security checks, determining identity and nationality of persons subject to

repatriation, provision of diplomatic-consular, legal and humanitarian assistance to nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

- The Coordination Team also developed a **Reintegration, Rehabilitation and Resocialisation Programme for all categories of nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina returning from the conflict areas of Syria and Iraq**, which includes short, medium and long-term security measures, health and social protection measures, ensuring access to education, economic support and employment, local legal assistance and other necessary measures;
- Returnees of December 2019 had been **provided socio-economic and psychological assistance and support**;
- In the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, **the Law supplementing the Law on Non-Contentious Proceedings** (Official Gazette FBiH, No. 11/21) which allowed the procedure for establishing the necessary facts for the registration of births of children born outside Bosnia and Herzegovina, without relevant birth certificate.
- With a view to ensuring the safe, humane and controlled return of nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina from Syria and Iraq, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in accordance with the procedures defined in the 'Protocol on cooperation and exchange of information for reintegration of nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina accepted under readmission agreements', has made available its capacities established for the purpose of admission of nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina returning to Bosnia and Herzegovina under readmission agreements.

The Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina has at its disposal the National Readmission Centre in Salakovac, Mostar, with a capacity to host 80 to 100 beneficiaries. According to the Law on Ministries and Other Administrative Bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with other competent institutions, undertakes activities aimed at adequate reception and integration of readmitted persons in local communities for a period of 30 days, during which temporary admission to the Readmission Centre takes place.

The Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina has put in place effective coordination mechanisms between all institutions and organisations involved and has empowered a certain number of local government units, both institutionally and financially, to respond to all requests from readmitted individuals, in particular in

ensuring fundamental rights in housing, social and health care, education and employment areas, as well as specific information for particularly vulnerable categories of beneficiaries.

As part of the establishment of a functioning system for reception and integration of readmitted individuals, Entity coordinators were appointed, specifically the Secretariat for Displaced Persons and Migration of Republika Srpska and the FBiH Ministry of Displaced Persons and Refugees and cantonal coordinators in charge of readmission in all 10 cantons.

Local communities identified as potential communities of return of this population are included in readmission system, as follows:

- > Tuzla Canton with Local Readmission Teams (Tuzla, Gradačac, Gračanica and Živinice) and Commissioner (Srebrenik)
- > Sarajevo Canton with Local Readmission Teams (Stari Grad, Novi Grad, Centar, Ilidža and Ilijaš)
- > Zenica Doboј Canton with Local Readmission Teams (Zenica, Kakanj and Maglaj) and Commissioners (Tešanj and Breza)
- > Una Sana Canton with Local Readmission Team (Bosanska Krupa) and Commissioners (Cazin and Bužim)
- > Central Bosnian Canton with Local Readmission Team (Bugojno) and Commissioner (Donji Vakuf)
- > Republika Srpska region with Local Readmission Teams (Priјedor and Doboј)
- > Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the Local Readmission Team

The municipality/city administration appointed heads or commissioners to local readmission teams, while other members include representatives of Social Welfare Centre, the Ministry of Interior, the Employment Service and the Health Care Service.

Challenges

- Reintegration, rehabilitation and re-socialisation are long-term and complex processes; hence, the need was recognised to **enhance cooperation between more stakeholders and sectors at all levels of government in Bosnia and Herzegovina** and continued work to **strengthen professionals working with returnees and their children**, as well as the need to develop **policies and sustainable programmes** in order to implement these processes as effectively as possible;
- Also, the **establishment of a coordination mechanism** has been identified as a key link in the implementation of repatriation and reintegration, rehabilitation and re-socialisation process. In this regard, the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with other competent institutions at all levels of government in Bosnia and Herzegovina, worked to strengthen this mechanism and on its final formal legal establishment;
- Following its establishment, the Coordination Mechanism at the level of Bosnia and Herzegovina is tasked with **creating an effective system and developing procedures for safe, humane and controlled return of nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the conflict area of Syria and Iraq and to coordinate further processes of their reintegration, re-socialisation and rehabilitation**;
- Create **an environment at local community level and in the circle of reception families** that will contribute to a more effective reintegration, re-socialisation and rehabilitation process;
- **As with the education sector, it is very important to have support and further training of staff employed in these processes**, including on characteristics of returning children and how children and their families are treated;
- Expressing the need for **theologians to be involved in the form of expert advisory assistance to all professionals in carrying out the process of repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and re-socialisation**;
- The challenge is to **preserve confidentiality regarding the past of returning children, as well as to protect women returnees from media exposure**, thus contributing to the ability to integrate them smoothly into Bosnia and Herzegovina society and recover from their experiences;

- **Further education**, both for returning children to catch up with their peers, and for women returnees themselves so as to acquire professional skills to enter the labour market;
- As for the work of psychologists with nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina returning from the conflict areas of Syria and Iraq, the **process of preparing for any testimony before the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina comes as a challenge**, requiring a necessary involvement of the Witness Support Unit of the Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- The need for **economic integration and independence** is also a challenge for returnees and requires additional support;
- Another challenge identified in the further process is the **need to register Syrian-born children in birth registers** with the view of exercising the right to healthcare, as well as enrolment in schools and other rights that cannot be exercised without adequate documentation;
- Social workers in social services must, in addition to regular activities, be **additionally engaged in these highly complex and specific working conditions**;
- There is also **the need for social welfare centres to hire additional staffing and train the existing** in their services due to the increased workload imposed by the return of nationals and activities falling within their remit.

**PLAN OF SAFE, HUMANE AND CONTROLLED RETURN OF NATIONALS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
FROM THE CONFLICT AREAS OF SYRIA AND IRAQ**

In line with past experience and lessons learned, a set of measures has been developed to implement the Plan of Safe, Humane and Controlled Return of Nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the Conflict Areas of Syria and Iraq

1. PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REPATRIATION PLAN					
	Relevant institutions	Description of the activity	Timeline	Funding source	Indicator
1.1.	OBTAIN CLEARANCE FOR REPATRIATION AND RECEPTION OF BiH NATIONALS FROM CONFLICT AREAS OF SYRIA AND IRAQ				
	Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina drafts and submits information to the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina for clearance	Upon adoption of the Plan and the Programme	Budget of the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Adoption of the Conclusion of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina granting clearance for the implementation of the Plan and the Programme
1.2.	ESTABLISHING IDENTITY OF RETURNEES				
	Law enforcement agencies of Bosnia and Herzegovina: Entity and cantonal Ministries of Interior and	On the basis of the available data, draw up a list of BiH nationals, potential returnees from Syria and Iraq, adult men to be covered by the warrant,	After having obtained the clearance of the Presidency of	Budget of the institutions of Bosnia	Established identity Confirmed list of returnees

	Police of Brčko District of BiH; Bosnia and Herzegovina Intelligence Security Agency	and women and children in refugee camps;	Bosnia and Herzegovina	and Herzegovina	
1.3.	SET UP A COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION MECHANISM DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN				
	Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina will request the competent institutions in the implementation of the Plan to appoint a representative on board of the Operational Team and have direct participation in the activities on the implementation of the Plan for the return of BiH nationals from conflict areas;	Following the adoption of the Plan and the Programme	Budget of the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Operational Team and coordination and communication mechanism in place during the implementation of the Plan
1.4.	PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION CAPACITY FOR INITIAL PLACEMENT OF BiH NATIONALS/RETURNEES				
	Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina propose to the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and	Following the clearance of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Budget of the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina	According to the number of returnees determined, and in accordance with the Plan, the accommodation capacity of the Delijaš Asylum Centre or Salakovac Reception Centre is

		Herzegovina a solution to the accommodation capacity regarding the initial placement of BiH nationals/returnees			provided, for a period of 10 to 15 days after arrival in Bosnia and Herzegovina, for the purposes of carrying out medical examination, preparing a social anamnesis, carrying out interviews and drawing up a plan for their further reintegration and return to their home families;
1.5.	ISSUANCE OF JOURNEY FORMS				
	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina	As part of the provision of adequate diplomatic consular assistance to nationals currently present in the territory of Syria, and owing to the absence of valid travel documents, journey forms will be issued for the purpose of their repatriation;	Upon confirmation of the list of returnees	Budget of the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Issued journey forms
1.6.	TRANSPORT				
	International Partners	Following the established list of returnees and following the procedure for issuing journey	On issuance of journey forms	Donor funding	Transport of returnees to Sarajevo International Airport completed

		forms, international partners will ensure transport from Syria to Bosnia and Herzegovina			
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2. AIRPORT ACCEPTANCE					
	Relevant institutions	Description of the activity	Timeline	Funding source	Indicator
2.1.	IDENTIFICATION OF RETURNEES				
	Law enforcement agencies of Bosnia and Herzegovina Entity and cantonal Ministries of Interior and Police of Brčko District of BiH	Upon arrival of returnees at Sarajevo International Airport, identification will be carried out to confirm the identity of each returnee on the basis of a pre-established list	Immediately upon arrival	Budget of the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Confirmed identity and authorised entry of returnees to Bosnia and Herzegovina
2.2.	HEALTH SCREENING				
	Competent medical services	Once the identity has been identified and confirmed, every returnee is to undergo a medical examination to establish his/her state of health and to take any medical care measures;	Immediately upon acceptance	Budgetary funds Donor funding	Basic medical examination carried out and finding and opinion produced
2.3.					

SELECTION OF RETURNEES ON THE GROUNDS OF CRIMINAL LEGAL LIABILITY					
	<p>Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina, law enforcement agencies of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Entity and cantonal Ministries of Interior and Police of Brčko District of BiH</p>	<p>On the basis of comprehensive operational security checks carried out on every individual national of Bosnia and Herzegovina returning from the areas of Syria and Iraq, a selection of returnees will be carried out according to the elements of criminal liability identified;</p>	<p>As soon as the medical examination has been carried out</p>	<p>Budget of the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina</p>	<p>Established status of returnee and measures and actions taken</p>
2.4.	TRANSPORT OF RETURNEES FROM THE AIRPORT				
	<p>Law enforcement agencies of Bosnia and Herzegovina</p> <p>Entity and cantonal Ministries of Interior and Police of Brčko District of BiH</p> <p>Judicial Police</p> <p>International Organisation (transport of women and children)</p>	<p>On completion of all scheduled activities at the airport and the established status of returnees, returnees will be transported to the identified locations</p>	<p>As soon as the status is established</p>	<p>Budget of the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina</p>	<p>Transport to the competent court</p> <p>Transported to law enforcement agencies</p> <p>Transported to reception centre</p>

3.	CRIMINAL AND LEGAL PROSECUTION MEASURES				
	Relevant institutions	Description of the activity	Timeline	Funding source	Indicator
3.1.	TREATMENT OF RETURNEES WITH ACTIVE INTERNATIONAL ARREST WARRANT ISSUED AGAINST THEM				
	Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Take measures and actions in accordance with the law and the competences of the judicial institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Immediately upon departure from Sarajevo International Airport	Budget of the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Detention ordered
3.2.	TREATMENT OF RETURNEES WITH ACTIVE POLICE WARRANT				
	Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina Law enforcement agencies of Bosnia and Herzegovina Entity and cantonal Ministries of Interior and Police of Brčko District of BiH	Taking measures and actions in accordance with the law and competences of the judicial and security institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Immediately upon departure from Sarajevo International Airport	Budget of the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Criminal processing carried out and handover of returnees to the Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina accompanied by a report on the crime committed
3.3.	TREATMENT OF OTHER RETURNEES				
	Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Taking measures and actions in accordance with the law and competences of the judicial and	Immediately upon departure from Sarajevo	Budget of the institutions	Interview conducted Report prepared

	Law enforcement agencies of Bosnia and Herzegovina Entity and cantonal Ministries of Interior and Police of Brčko District of BiH	security institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina	International Airport	of Bosnia and Herzegovina	
3.4.	EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON RETURNEES				
	Law enforcement agencies of Bosnia and Herzegovina Entity and cantonal Ministries of Interior and Police of Brčko District of BiH International stakeholders	Update and exchange of operational data	After criminal processing	Budget of the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Number of information exchanged and updated
3.5.	MONITORING THE SECURITY SITUATION OF RETURNEES UPON RETURN TO THEIR PLACE OF RESIDENCE				
	Bosnia and Herzegovina Intelligence Security Agency Law enforcement agencies of Bosnia and Herzegovina Entity and cantonal Ministries of Interior and Police of Brčko District of BiH	Taking measures and actions in accordance with the law and the competences of the relevant institutions to monitor any security risks of returnees upon return to their place of residence;	On return to the place of residence	Budget of the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Security assessment carried out

PROGRAMME OF REINTEGRATION, REHABILITATION AND RE-SOCIALISATION FOR ALL CATEGORIES OF NATIONALS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA RETURNING FROM CONFLICT AREAS IN SYRIA AND IRAQ

Activities planned under the Programme to ensure reintegration of nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina returning from conflict areas of Syria and Iraq to their families and communities, and to reduce risks in the process of their rehabilitation and re-socialisation

1. PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REINTEGRATION, REHABILITATION AND RE-SOCIALISATION PROGRAMMES FOR ALL CATEGORIES OF NATIONALS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA RETURNING FROM CONFLICT AREAS IN SYRIA AND IRAQ					
	Relevant institutions	Description of the activity	Timeline	Funding source	Indicator
1.1.	INFORM RELEVANT INSTITUTIONS IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES ABOUT THE RETURN OF INDIVIDUALS FROM CONFLICT AREAS TO THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND PROVIDE THEM WITH BASIC INFORMATION NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT REINTEGRATION, REHABILITATION AND RE-SOCIALISATION PROGRAMMES				
	Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina in cooperation with the Intelligence and Security Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the State Investigation and Protection Agency, Ministries of Interior and the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Based on a list of returnees and mapping of returning communities, inform social protection, health and education institutions about the number of returnees, their identity, gender and age, as well as the number and age of children;	Immediately after the activities to confirm the identity and nationality of the persons planned for return have been carried out;	Budget of the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Information provided

1.2.	ASSESSING AVAILABLE RESOURCES IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES BY MAPPING ALL DUTY-HOLDERS IN SUPPORT OF THE PROCESS OF REINTEGRATION, REHABILITATION AND RE-SOCIALISATION OF RETURNEES FROM CONFLICT AREAS, AS WELL AS THE APPOINTMENT OF RESPONSIBLE PERSONS				
Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina in cooperation with police and institutions, social protection, health and education at Entity/cantonal level and Brčko District of BiH	Analysis of existing Local Admission Teams with a view to upgrading, educating and empowering them to form local multi-sectoral teams	According to the established list of returnees and a mapping of the place of residence	Budgetary funds Donor funding	Established local multi-sectoral teams comprising police, social, health, education and Islamic community representatives in Bosnia and Herzegovina	
1.3.	ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION OF RECEPTION FAMILIES (DATA FROM SOCIAL ANAMNESIS, GENERAL FAMILY RELATIONSHIP SITUATION, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STATUS, ASSESSMENT OF EXPECTATIONS, NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR PSYCHOSOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT AND HOUSING CONDITIONS OF FAMILIES)				
Competent social welfare centres/municipal social protection services Responsible Mental Health Centres	Assessment of the situation of the receiving family of returnees through social anamnesis, analysis of the general situation of family relations, social and economic status, housing conditions and assessment of expectations and needs for	According to the established list of returnees and a mapping of the place of residence	Budgetary funds	Assessment and social anamnesis with declared needs	

		psychosocial and economic support			
1.4.	PREPARATION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF RELEVANT INSTITUTIONS IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES AS PART OF SUPPORTING THE PROCESS OF REINTEGRATION, REHABILITATION AND RE-SOCIALISATION OF RETURNEES FROM CONFLICT AREAS				
	Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH Local readmission/multisectoral teams	Providing essential information, education and empowerment of social protection, health and education officials in the process of implementing activities in the area of reintegration, rehabilitation and re-socialisation of returnees from conflict areas;	According to the established list of returnees and mapping of the place of residence	Budgetary funds Donor funding	Satisfactory degree of readiness of representatives of relevant institutions in local communities to work independently and directly with returnees
1.5.	PREPARING FAMILIES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO WHICH RETURNEES ARE RETURNING				
	Competent social welfare centres/municipal social protection services Responsible mental health centres	Interviews with family members and closer local communities to raise awareness of attitudes, beliefs and living conditions, and the need to support, understand and	Following preparatory work with social protection officials	Budgetary funds Donor funding	Satisfactory level of readiness to support and understand returnees without discrimination and stigmatisation

		encourage the normalisation of the lives of returnees from conflict areas and their children			
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2.	ACTIVITIES UPON ARRIVAL OF RETURNES IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND RECEPTION FAMILIES				
	Relevant institutions	Description of the activity	Timeline	Funding source	Indicator
2.1.	FAMILY REUNIFICATION PROCESS				
	Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina Law enforcement agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina Competent social welfare centres/municipal social protection services	Return to the place of residence and attendance and mediation for the first family meeting with returnees	After leaving the reception centre	Budgetary funds Donor funding	Women returnees and children placed in home families
2.2.	PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION FOR UNACCOMMODATED FAMILIES				
	Competent social welfare centres/municipal social protection services	In case the return family does not have where to return, it is essential to	After leaving the reception centre	Budgetary funds	Accommodation provided

	Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina Safe houses	provide accommodation for their care.		Donor funding	
2.3.	PROVIDING SUPPORT AND PSYCHO-SOCIAL SERVICES TO RETURNEES, CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES UPON ARRIVAL IN THE FAMILY				
	Competent social welfare centres/municipal social protection services Mental health centres	According to the needs assessment, provide the necessary socio-economic assistance and psychological support in the process of adjustment;	Upon return to the family	Budgetary funds Donor funding	Necessary assistance and support provided
2.4.	DEVELOPMENT OF AN INDIVIDUAL WORK PLAN FOR RETURNEES AND THEIR CHILDREN				
	Mental health centres	Individual work plans to be drawn up based on the data obtained from the psycho-diagnostic assessment for access to psychological treatment and interventions	Upon return to the family	Budgetary funds Donor funding	Individual plans drawn up
2.5.	ISSUANCE OF IDENTITY DOCUMENTS				
	Competent social welfare centres/Municipal social protection services Entity/canton/District Police	For BiH nationals returning from conflict areas who do not possess identity documents, it is essential to initiate a re-issuance procedure.	Upon return to the family	Budgetary funds	Issued identity documents

2.6.	REGULATING THE STATUS OF SYRIAN/IRAQI BORN CHILDREN				
<p>Competent social welfare centres/municipal social protection services</p> <p>Responsible bodies under the Administrative Procedure Code</p> <p>Competent courts</p>	<p>Given that children born in Syria do not have proof of the place and time of birth (birth certificate), it is necessary to initiate the procedure for registering children in birth registers.</p>	<p>Upon return to the family</p>	<p>Budgetary funds</p> <p>Donor funding</p>	<p>Children registered in birth registers</p>	
2.7.	HEALTH CARE INSURANCE				
<p>Competent social welfare centres/municipal social protection services</p> <p>Competent health insurance institutions by place of residence</p> <p>Health insurance funds</p>	<p>In accordance with the legislation in force, come up with a way to register returnees and their children with health insurance funds for the purposes of health care insurance;</p>	<p>Upon issuance of identity documents and birth certificates for children</p>	<p>Budgetary funds</p>	<p>Health insurance provided</p>	
2.8.					

	REGULATING EMPLOYMENT STATUS				
	<p>Competent social welfare centres/municipal social protection services</p> <p>Competent services/employment offices</p>	<p>Registration with relevant employment services/offices to regulate employment-related rights</p>	<p>Upon reissuance of identity documents</p>	<p>Budgetary funds</p>	<p>Regulated registration to employment service /office</p>
2.9.	SOCIAL INCLUSION				
	<p>Competent social welfare centres/municipal social protection services</p> <p>Local community</p> <p>Local readmission/multisectoral teams</p> <p>NGOs</p> <p>Religious communities</p>	<p>Destigmatisation of returnees from conflict areas, reintegration in the local community</p> <p>Sensitising the local community to the issue of returnees from conflict areas through the development of a specific outreach programme</p>	<p>Upon return to the local community</p>	<p>Budgetary funds</p> <p>Donor funding</p>	<p>Specific community outreach programmes developed and implemented</p>

2.10.	CONTINUED COOPERATION WITH RECEPTION FAMILIES AND MONITORING THE PROCESS OF ADJUSTMENT AND RE-SOCIALISATION				
<p>Competent social welfare centres/municipal social protection services</p> <p>Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH in cooperation with the Entity, cantonal and local institutions</p> <p>Local readmission/multisectoral teams</p>	<p>Monitoring the process of adjustment and family relations to ensure adequate conditions for children's normal development and family stabilisation</p>	<p>Upon return to the family</p>	<p>Budgetary funds</p>	<p>Continued cooperation with the family achieved</p>	

3.	PROVIDING SUPPORT AND PSYCHO-SOCIAL SERVICES UPON RETURN TO THE RECEPTION FAMILY WITH A VIEW TO SOCIAL ADAPTATION AND REHABILITATION OF FAMILIES				
	Relevant institutions	Description of the activity	Timeline	Funding source	Indicator
3.1.	PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF RETURNEES AND THEIR CHILDREN				
	Mental health centres	Individual encounters to observe the environment (reception family), assess current psychological needs, child observation and family relations	Upon return to the family	Budgetary funds Donor funding	Assessment made
3.2.	DEVELOPMENT OF AN INDIVIDUAL WORK PLAN WITH RETURNEES AND THEIR CHILDREN				
	Mental health centres	Individual work plans will be drawn up based on the data obtained from the psycho-diagnostic assessment for access to psychological treatment and interventions	Following a psychological assessment	Budgetary funds Donor funding	Individual plans drawn up

3.3.	SUPPORT FOR RETURNEES APPEARING AS WITNESSES BEFORE THE JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA				
<p>Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina</p> <p>Witness Support Unit of the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina</p> <p>Judicial Police</p> <p>Mental health centres</p> <p>Psychiatrist</p>	<p>Preparatory measures for testimony will be carried out in the event of the reported need for any of women returnees to appear as witnesses before the judicial authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina.</p>	<p>As assessed by the judicial authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina</p>	<p>Budgetary funds</p>	<p>Women returnees prepared for testimony</p>	

4.	EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN CHILDREN'S INCLUSION IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM				
	Relevant institutions	Description of the activity	Timeline	Funding source	Indicator
4.1.	ORGANISING TRAINING FOR EDUCATIONAL STAFF				
	Local readmission/multisectoral teams Educational institutions	Organising training and education for educational staff on the specificities and circumstances in which children grew in conflict areas with the view of including children in pre-primary, primary and secondary education	Upon return to the family	Budgetary funds Donor funding	Trained educational staff

4.2.	INTEGRATION OF CHILDREN IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION				
	Pre-school institutions providing pre-school education	Collecting documentation required for enrolment in pre-school institutions providing pre-school education in accordance with the legislation in force	After previous activities have been carried out and the necessary documentation for enrolment at the pre-school institution has been provided, in accordance with the	Budgetary funds	Children enrolled in pre-school institutions

			regulations on pre-school education;		
4.3.	ADDITIONAL WORK OF EDUCATORS AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES/SUPPORT TO ENROLLED CHILDREN IN ADAPTING TO THE NEW ENVIRONMENT AND FULLY INTEGRATING INTO THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS				
	Pre-school institutions providing pre-school education	Continued support to the child's enrolment group by the professional service and management of the institution, and enhanced cooperation of the educators and, if there is a professional service in the institution (pedagogue, psychologist) with the child's parents/students, especially if the child does not speak any official language in Bosnia and Herzegovina;	Continuously during attendance at a pre-school education programme;	Budgetary funds	Trained and empowered education staff to support children's integration into the education system
4.4.	INTEGRATION OF CHILDREN INTO PRIMARY EDUCATION				
	Primary schools	Collect the documentation required for enrolment in primary school in accordance with the regulations in force	Once the previous activities have been completed and it is established that children can attend	Budgetary funds	Children enrolled in primary schools

			primary school, actions are taken in accordance with regulations in force in the area of education.		
4.5.	SETTING UP THE PANEL AND TESTING OF CHILDREN				
	Primary schools	Form a panel and test children to see readiness and maturity to attend classes and propose a class to which they would be enrolled	After the children's documentation has been obtained and verified	Budgetary funds	The panel is formed, testing of children is carried out and the panel's opinion/proposal produced
4.6.	ORGANISING A CLASS TEST AND ENROLMENT IN THE RELEVANT CLASS				
	Primary schools	Organising class examination and enrolment in the relevant class and regular attendance at school in accordance with the curricula and regulations in force;	Once the panel's opinions and proposals have been received	Budgetary funds	A child enrolled in school and regularly attending classes
4.7.	ADDITIONAL WORK OF THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE/SUPPORT FOR ENROLLED STUDENTS				

	Primary schools	Additional work of the expert service to support enrolled students to adapt to the new environment and fully integrate into the educational process	Continuously during primary school	Budgetary funds	Regular interviews of the child with a professional service (pedagogue, psychologist) at school
4.8.	ORGANISING ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES WITH CHILDREN				
	Primary schools	Organising additional activities with children through complementary teaching and psychosocial educational workshops to help them master programme content and language training	Continuously during primary school	Budgetary funds	Organised regular extracurricular activities (complementary classes, psychosocial educational workshops) for children
4.9.	INTEGRATION OF CHILDREN IN SECONDARY OR ADULT EDUCATION				
	Secondary schools or adult education institutions	Collect the documentation required for enrolment at a secondary school or adult education institution in accordance with the legislation in force	Once the previous activities have been carried out and it is established that children can attend secondary schools, actions are taken in accordance with regulations on secondary education.	Budgetary funds	Documentation collected for enrolment in secondary school or adult education institution

4.10.	PASSING EXAMS FOR THE DIFFERENCE IN SCHOOL SUBJECTS				
Secondary schools or adult education institutions	Passing exams for the difference in subjects and enrolling in a formal or non-formal education programme and attending classes regularly in accordance with the curricula and regulations in force	After the children's documentation has been obtained and verified;	Budgetary funds	Child enrolled in school or adult education institution (pedagogical documentation) and regularly attending school	
4.11.	ADDITIONAL WORK OF THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE/SUPPORT FOR ENROLLED STUDENTS				
Secondary schools or adult education institutions	Additional work of the expert service to support enrolled students in adapting to the new environment and fully integrating into the educational process	Continuously while attending school	Budgetary funds	Regular interviews of the child with a professional service (pedagogue, psychologist) at school	

5. Role and engagement of theologians

In addition to the competent institutions from the security sector, social welfare centres, mental health centres and educational institutions in the process of return, assessment is made into a possible contribution by theologians/religious officials, in the light of the experiences of other countries in the European Union and in the region where theologians are already involved in the process of re-socialisation and reintegration of returnees from conflict areas.

The intended engagement of theologian would consist of expert advisory assistance to officials who will work in the process of returning nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the conflict areas of Syria and Iraq and subsequently, if necessary, working directly with these individuals, when the engagement of theologians would be purely for the purposes of a dialogue in order to develop critical thinking for those returning from conflict areas rather than expressing their own or imposing other religious beliefs.

6. Multi-sectoral cooperation and joint risk assessment

Multi-sectoral cooperation is essential in the processes of repatriation, re-socialisation and rehabilitation of nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the conflict areas of Syria and Iraq. Each sector, level of government, institution and professional plays an important role in these processes according to the activities and institutions identified in the Plan and the Programme, in accordance with legal competences.

It is the commitment of all, with maximum willingness and engagement, to ensure the smooth and sound running of these processes, a professional relation in conduct, meaningful and coordinated activities, synergies between local and national institutions, government and non-governmental sectors.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is committed to allowing its nationals returning from the conflict areas of Syria and Iraq to return to their country of origin, respecting the dignity and integrity of returnees, protecting the rights and freedoms of people and applying the rule of law.

COORDINATION, COMMUNICATION AND REPORTING MECHANISM TO ACCOMPANY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN AND PROGRAMME

In implementing the actions of the Plan and the Programme, relevant institutions will be guided by effective legislation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, international standards, the Information of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina on nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina present in the conflict area of Syria and Iraq and the conclusions adopted with a view to their repatriation.

The actions under the Plan and the Programme will be implemented according to the timeframes and indicators set for implementation.

Implementation of the measures under the Plan and the Programme will take place across the board at all levels of government in accordance with constitutional and legal competences of the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

When implementing the envisaged measures, particular attention will be paid to monitoring and evaluation of implementation progress, which will be reported to the Coordination Team at least twice a year by relevant institutions. The Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina will consolidate reports and report on progress to the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as relevant international organisations.

The implementation of the Plan and the Programme measures will take place in full coordination with the state, Entities and institutions of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In order to implement international standards and commitments under the Plan and the Programme more effectively, and in cooperation with international organisations and partner countries, the Coordination Team may independently plan and develop specific projects to fulfil specific tasks and monitor their implementation.

Within the Coordination Team, the Chair of the Coordination Team may set up an action-specific and cross-sectoral communication operational team to ensure a horizontal flow of information between stakeholders at national level, and vertical for communication with both Entities and the District.

FINANCIAL ASPECT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN AND PROGRAMME

The actions and activities of the Plan and the Programme will be implemented through the budgets of relevant institutions and the donor funds planned in projects implemented by international organisations in Bosnia and Herzegovina.