

PROJECT FACTSHEET

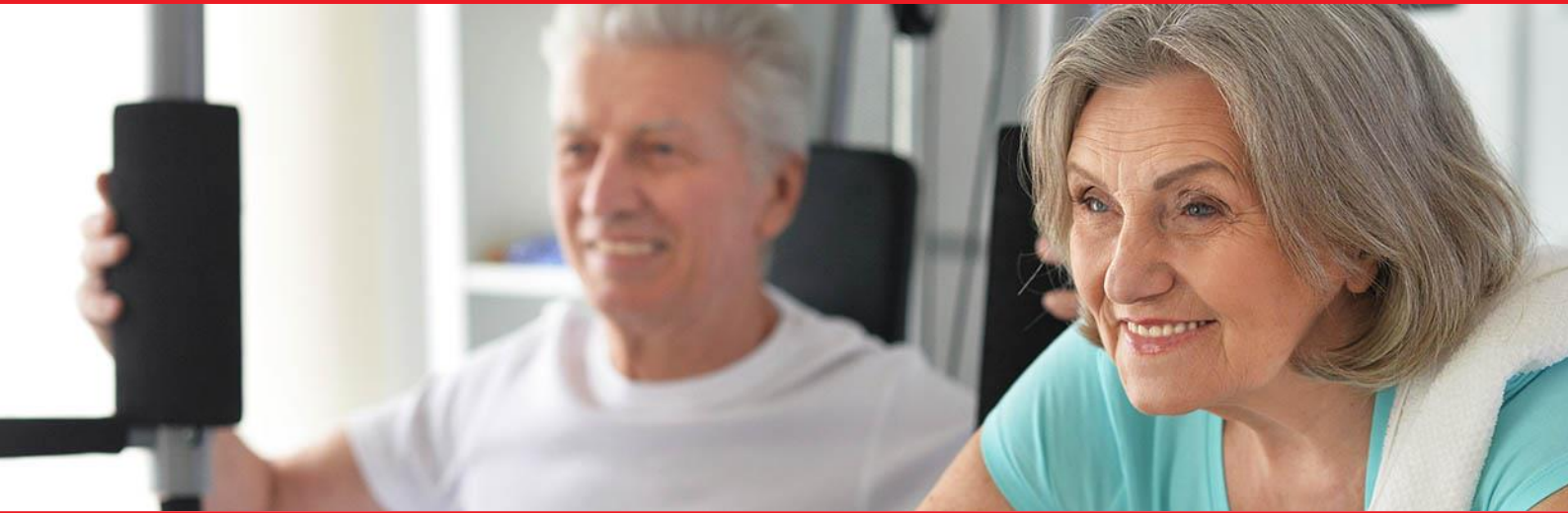
Ageing and Health - The first phase of the project for improving the living conditions of people in adulthood

Bosnia and Herzegovina – June 2024



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Embassy of Switzerland in Bosnia and Herzegovina



HOW TO GROW DIGNIFIEDLY AND HEALTHIER IN BIH?

HUMANITY THROUGH CARING FOR THE ELDERLY AND WEAK

Caring for the elderly, the sick, and the exhausted people is an essential measure of society.

According to demographic trends, the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina is getting older. UN data shows that more than 30% of the total population in BiH will be people over 65 by the end of 2060, which is significantly higher than 17% of the older people share in BiH in 2019.

Developed European countries also face faster population aging, but better social services and care significantly differentiate them from BiH.

Unfavorable economic conditions, complex government structure, high unemployment rate, and the consequences of the COVID 19 pandemic intensify the problems of older people in BiH. Data (2017) shows that every fourth person in BiH who lives alone and is over 65 is poor. Older women are particularly affected by poverty.

The Ageing and Health project, implemented by the Swiss Red Cross (SRC), aims to strengthen the capacity of The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina and local communities in the Republic of Srpska (RS) and Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH), to create a better, healthier, and more stimulating environment that will positively affect the life and health of older people in BiH.

The Swiss Red Cross has supported The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina for more than eight years to improve this highly vulnerable population's living conditions.

Ageing and Health Phase I builds on previously successful Swiss humanitarian initiatives and fully complements the United Nations Development Goals (SDGs).

The project is currently implemented in Tuzla, Lukavac, Zivinice, Zepce, Samac, Dobo, Foca, Kalesija, Prnjavor, and Brcko District.

The project corresponds to the health system and supports public policies on healthy aging in BiH. In addition to care services and home care provided at the municipal level, the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its entity organizations based in Sarajevo and Pale will advocate for standardizing services at the entity level in RS, at the cantonal level FBiH, and Brcko District.

WHO IS THE PROJECT FOR?

The project empowers the elderly and their families and supports medical staff, staff of Red Cross organizations, and local communities in general. This vital initiative improves living and working conditions for about 11,000 beneficiaries in BiH.

Improving the health and life of the elderly includes two groups of people. On the one hand, these are helpless people of both genders over the age of 65 who will be provided with the necessary home care. But, older people in good health are also participating in the project. With their enthusiasm and experience, they actively contribute to a better quality of life in their local communities.

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The project initiative will provide direct support to the following categories of the population:

- 1,500 elder or chronically ill people in need of home care services
- 1,000 family members of clients using home care services
- 2,000 older people who actively contribute to the creation of a stimulating and motivating environment for healthy aging
- 6,000 people in their communities who also feel the benefits of these activities

Also, the project significantly affects the capacity building of health and administrative workers, as follows:

- 65 care workers engaged in the provision of home care services within the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 50 care workers or family members and users of the Red Cross Society of BiH services
- 140 auxiliary nurses
- Non-medical staff at the Red Cross
- Administrative support to the project in municipalities

GOALS AND RESULTS

The long-term project goal is to improve the health, living conditions, and well-being of the elderly in BiH through three key segments:

(I) Provision of home care services for the elderly and chronically ill in at least ten municipalities in BiH

(II) Older people are actively involved and contribute to the creation of “age-friendly” local communities

(III) Strengthened capacities of the BiH Red Cross, as a critical driver of change in the field of aging and health

WHY IS IT ESSENTIAL TO CONTINUE INVESTING IN OLDER PEOPLE'S QUALITY OF LIFE?

The idea behind the project lies primarily in the needs of older people for a dignified life, access to care, health services, and active aging.

On the other hand, it is based on increasing the strategic capacity of the Red Cross Society of BiH to address the needs of the elderly in the country.

Project activities will enable the creation of a sustainable model of care for the elderly and their extended stay at home with quality care and the functional design of a better social life.

PROJECT IN BRIEF

NAME:

Aging and Health

DOMAIN:

Health care, humanity

LAND/REGION:

Bosnia and Herzegovina

PARTNERS:

The Red Cross Society of BiH

The Red Cross of the Federation of BiH

The Red Cross of Republika Srpska

Municipal Red Cross organizations

Local authorities

STARTING POINT / BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The data show that a large part of the retired population in BiH lives on the edge of poverty, which significantly affects their health and quality of life. Older people are a particularly vulnerable group (especially those who live alone without family support) and society needs to make significant efforts to provide them with adequate home care and access to health services.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE:

Improving the general health and quality of life of older people in BiH

TARGET GROUP:

Over 11,000 direct beneficiaries, which includes the elderly, their family members, medical and home care staff

COSTS:

CHF 3,000,000 (SDC and SRC)

DURATION:

15.12.2020- 30.04.2025 (Phase 1)

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