

ABOUT SRH SERBIA

SRH Serbia works towards achieving a discrimination free, gender equal and pro-choice environment in which young people will be able to develop, prosper and make informed decisions regarding various aspects of life, including sexual and reproductive health.

SRH Serbia is a Member of International Planned Parenthood Federation - IPPF, a global leader in providing reproductive health and rights services and existing since 1952 and operating in 152 countries worldwide.

Our work aims to improve people's quality of life by providing and campaigning for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) through advocacy and services, especially for poor and vulnerable people. SRH Serbia defends the right of all people to enjoy sexual lives free from ill health, unwanted pregnancy, violence and discrimination.

We are strongly committed to gender equality, and to eliminating the stigma and discrimination, which leads to the widespread violation of health and human rights, particularly among women.

We believe in working in partnerships with communities, governments, other organizations and donors.

As a Member of International Planned Parenthood Federation - IPPF, we strive to impact on greater presence of reproductive rights and sexual health in Serbia, be loud in defending the right to make own decisions about one's sexual rights and reproductive health, be supportive and provide services to Inadequately Served Population and in all respect work on achieving full compliance with wide spectrum of human rights through advocacy and education.

Vision Statement

SRH Serbia's Vision Statement

All people are free to make choices about their sexuality and wellbeing, in a world without discrimination.

Mission Statement

SRH Serbia's Mission Statement

To lead a locally owned, globally connected civil society movement that provides and enables services, and champions sexual and reproductive health and rights for all, especially the underserve

Values

SRH Serbia's Values

Our core values guide the way we undertake our work. In SRH Serbia, we believe:

- In social inclusion with a demonstrated commitment to enable the rights of the most underserved to be realized
- in diversity, respecting all regardless of their age, gender, status, identity, sexual orientation or expression
- our passion and determination inspire others to have the courage to challenge and seek social justice for all
- in the significant contribution our volunteerism delivers across a range of roles as activists inspire SRH Serbia to advance its mission
- in accountability as a cornerstone of trust which is demonstrated through high performance, ethical standards and transparency.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS ACHIEVED IN 2019.

Political context 2019.

General political environment in Serbia is characterized by a highly centralized decision making. The decisions regarding policies and practices are often made in places of power within or outside of the elected government with little or no relation to proclaimed values or, indeed, voters' expressed preferences. This means that certain decisions within the government structure are made or heavily influenced by persons whose formal positions should not be able to provide them with such power (advisors, for example, who legally have no executive powers) as well as that many decisions are made at a party level, rather than within the executive branch of power and are then imposed on the government because of the power of the party, bypassing the formal decision making processes. For example, SRH Serbia has experienced strong opposition regarding our awareness raising activities related to article 3 of Istanbul Convention, primarily from state officials that have close ties to radical right-wing organizations, grassroot organisations which have strong inclination towards policy-making methods characteristic for Russian politics, and the church. However, reframing our advocacy messages to fit general narrative on Serbia's EU accession path and EU policies usually surpasses aforementioned critics and opposition as fortunately, Serbia's formal goal regarding EU accession remains unchanged. Situation in Serbia in all areas related to reproductive health could be assessed as quite poor and influenced by pro-natal policy agenda during 2019. Family planning has not been recognized as an area of human rights, but rather as a demographic determinant, and decision makers in general have a lot of prejudice, misconceptions and a notable lack of knowledge regarding SRHR and related human rights. Despite adopting the National programme for preservation and improvement of sexual

and reproductive health of citizens of Republic of Serbia, SRHR has still not become a priority for the Serbian government.

Moreover, since the government is currently almost exclusively concerned with increasing birth rate rather than with protection of SRHR and women's rights, SRH Serbia worked with Professors from University of Belgrade leading the Laboratory for Experimental Psychology (Psycholinguistics and Cognitive Linguistics) on reframing key messages so to fit government's discourse on a superficial level, yet which would help us to successfully advocate for SRHR issues and ultimately achieve optimal results in a given situation.

Advocacy activities 2019.

In 2019, SRH Serbia was rather active in terms of its advocacy activities and has organized numerous meetings with relevant national and local stakeholders not necessarily always to advocate for particular initiative but very often to remain present. Istanbul Convention was under the spotlight of our advocacy activities and especially its article 3 due to worsening position of LGBTIQ+ population but also due to increasingly present violence against women and girls. In order to raise awareness on importance of combatting gender-based discrimination and violence, SRH Serbia organised parliamentary public hearing with our All-Party Parliamentary Group for reproductive health, gender and HIV and put the Convention and the values it promotes at the core of this hearing. Attendance was above expected and due to great media response, we

can qualify this event as one of the biggest advocacy achievements in 2019.

Local Action Plans, in whose adoption SRH Serbia was involved in, were either concerned with gender and gender-related issues or with the overall position of Roma population in particular communities. On the national level, SRH Serbia's key success was twofold. Firstly, SRH Serbia managed to successfully advocate for promulgation of both Action plan and Costed plan for National Programme for Preservation and Improvement of Sexual and Reproductive Health of Citizens of Serbia which identifies priorities between proposed activities, agrees on distribution of roles and responsibilities and identifies key objectives and indicators for monitoring and evaluation of successful implementation. Secondly, costed plan foreseen increased budgetary allocations for SRHR activities.

SHADOW REPORT

A key success in 2019 was development and presentation of the Shadow Report on implementation of SDGs in the Republic of Serbia. The intention to engage in such activity came from the fact that the Republic of Serbia adopted Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015 and was presenting Voluntary National Review (VNR) on implementation of Agenda 2030 in front of High Level Political Forum in July 2019 in New York. SRH Serbia produces a very balanced, yet critical report- recognized as such from all relevant stakeholders. Additionally, Shadow Report significantly raised awareness in Serbia regarding importance of sustainable development and the presentation of the report itself, correspondingly, attracted great number of state officials who expressed interest in further cooperation with SRH Serbia in future modeling of plans for achievement of sustainable development. The presentation of the Shadow Report was only a part of the activities related to advocacy efforts for adoption of National programme for implementation of SDGs (with particular emphasis on 3.7 which calls for universal access to SRHR and family planning). The main idea behind this activity was to re-position civil society from being seen as an intruder and solely as a monitoring mechanism to being perceived as a constructive and invaluable partner government can rely on. The major success of this project is therefore that SRH Serbia provided ground for more meaningful participation of civil society which will push for the government to take a more progressive stance on sustainable development.

Moreover, a vital outcome of presentation of the Shadow Report is that it will allow experts from civil society to bring forward innovative ideas and creative solutions for various obstacles government is facing within the process of sustainable development goals implementation. The main idea behind this activity was to re-position civil society from being seen as an intruder and solely as a monitoring mechanism to being seen as a constructive and valuable partner government can rely on. The major success is therefore that SRH Serbia provided ground for more meaningful participation of civil society which will push the government to take a more progressive stance on sustainable development

COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION (CSE)

As the pressure of the right-wing government constantly raises and in combination with the pressure that church exerts, there was less and less space for carrying out comprehensive sexuality education during 2019. One of the main reasons for such situation is the fact that CSE encompasses lessons about same-sex relationships although contraception and other CSE related components also play an important role for the Church to express greatly negative sentiment in regard to it. Additionally, since the right-wing government has also reflected its pro-natalist stances through its close ties with SRHR opposition movements and through creation of anti-choice policies and legislations, SRH Serbia decided to focus more on out-of-school CSE during 2019. This means that CSE sessions were mainly disseminated through SRH Serbia's informal counselling centers (Drop-In centers and Youth Volunteering Centre) where we have the means to more meaningfully utilise resources, knowledge, skills and tools at our disposal in order to achieve observable results. Major success was that SRH Serbia managed to utilize last year's momentum in provision of comprehensive sexual education and build numbers of beneficiaries benefiting from CSE sessions on top of that especially in regard to the refugee/migrant population in Serbia. Through CSE programme and equipped 150 refugee peer educators, we reached more than 1000 refugees with CSE sessions, in majority of cases with full CSE programme which positively affected expansion of their knowledge, provided them with better comprehension of SRHR and family planning issues, increased

demand for services and consequently improved access to services. This number of reached refugees/migrants accounts for approximately one third of the entire refugee/migrant population we are especially proud of.

However, despite the fact that SRH Serbia has focused on out-of-school CSE with refugees and Roma population in 2019, most of the 1000 young people we have reached with single CSE session were actually those we reached in schools and our data records state that more than 30 schools were visited in all regions of Serbia. Finally, we have managed to train more than 50 CSE ToTs which is particularly important for sustainability of our CSE programme.

THEATER BASED INTERVENTION (TBI)

Theatre based intervention as an innovative approach that SRH Serbia developed became widely used in different SRH Serbia activities and projects as a tool that has a huge potential to change traditional gender roles in society. The innovative side of this approach is its possibility and flexibility to adapt to different contexts, different vulnerable and marginalized groups and topics. TBI accompanied SRH Serbia's All in One CSE curriculum and this technique allowed us to surpass the planned number of young people reached with a complete series and with a partial series of CSE curriculum by far – in total reaching almost 4500 young people. Around 600 young people have been engaged through innovative ways of theatre-based intervention in a discussion about gender roles and responsibilities leading to changed behaviour and attitudes whereas 12,000 people have been presented with challenging notions on gender roles and traditional responsibilities online and encouraged to pursue further discussion with their peers.

DROP-IN CENTER / DROP ONLINE CENTER

SRH Serbia has been working for almost 20 years on expanding access and quality of comprehensive sexuality education. We strongly rely on peer education networks we built and have been sustaining for years as well as on informal counselling centres, especially Human Rights-based Drop-in Centres and Youth Counselling Centres.

SRH Serbia's Drop-In Centres and Online Drop-in Centre were particularly useful means for achieving foreseen numbers regarding disseminated CSE sessions especially for the general population and minorities who understand and use the Serbian language. Online dissemination of CSE sessions through Online Drop in Centre was particularly successful during 2019 and we are very proud of the fact that we allowed people from more distant regions to join, participate and learn. We do not have exact data dispersed in regard to access to single session, subset or full CSE, yet figure of over 170,000 people (not a unique number) who used services of Online Drop-in Centre may serve as an indicator.

During 2019, most of the services were provided to women and girls – 59%, while 41% were provided to men and boys. Most of the services were provided to beneficiaries from Roma and refugee population – a total of 77 % services. The beneficiaries that reached Drop-In Center needed legal advice (23%), psychosocial counselling (45%), contraception counselling (10%) or referral services (18 %) or some other kind of information (4%).

Youth Counselling centers

Youth counselling and volunteer Centre has been very successful in 2019 and continues to be recognized among beneficiaries as a safe space. Youth Counselling Centre and Drop-in Centres (excluding here Online Drop-in Centre) reached together nearly 10,000 people. The number of services provided during 2019 surpassed our expectations. A number of services provided exceeded anticipated figures in all spheres especially in terms of contraception, STI/RTI, abortion and HIV/AIDS-related services. The key to success that Youth Counselling Centre has been achieving lies in the fact that although it is

devised as a place where young people and other vulnerable groups can access youth-friendly SRHR services and educational sessions on SRHR topics, it also allows young people to discuss various issues they are interested in as for example those related to gender, discrimination, relationships, and other similar issues.

The range of services include prevention, diagnosis and management of sexual and reproductive problems, both physical and mental and Youth Counselling Centre is well connected with our Drop-in Centres experts (they often have jointly organised workshops and training sessions). Services in the centre include psychosocial support, maternal health services, abortion-related services, sexual abuse counselling, STI, HIV, SRHR issues counselling, family planning services, provision of condoms and others. However, the biggest achievement in 2019 is probably related to contraception provision and contraception related counselling as few thousands of condoms were distributed through this Centre while almost up to 1000 people, up to 24 years of age, were reached through contraception counselling and more than 200 referrals were provided. Moreover, in order for programme activities to be comprehensive and induce structural changes, SRH Serbia works not only with beneficiaries but with service-providers as well which is why we have developed CME training programme for improvement of referral services (which might be a crucial aspect of our service provision programme) and health protection of refugees who have been under most severe risks as they are multiply vulnerable.

STATIC AND MOBILE CLINICS

SRH Serbia has 4 static clinics covering both central and southern Serbia and this was one of the underlying strategies in 2019 for achieving success. Only through these clinics we have managed to reach more than 13,000 people in 2019 and 100% of them were vulnerable beneficiaries. Great majority of them are people who are coming back and this is due to another strategy SRH Serbia uses which comes down to offering an entire range of different services not necessarily always SRHR related so that our beneficiaries perceive our static clinics (Drop in Centres) as a safe place where they can ask any questions and feel like home. Due to a great number of volunteers – up to 780 of them, we have expertise in almost all fields necessary for our beneficiaries and can provide counselling and advisory services.

Since we collaborate with associated health facilities such as Clinical Centre Nis, Student Polyclinic Belgrade and others, we have referred over 6000 people from our static and mobile and outreach clinics for additional medical examinations or procedures that could have not been handled in our static and/or mobile and outreach clinics. Due to our emphasis on TBI and out-of-school CSE and other thematic workshops covering exclusively GBV, we achieved considerable growth in relation to GBV-related provided services of over 60% in comparison to 2018. Primary cause for this is increased work with refugee population in scope where all forms of GBV are rather present but are underreported due to covert discriminatory state policies and cultural differences of this population where most forms of GBV are considered normal (humanitarian context is also a factor). SRH Serbia also had substantial rise in other categories such as contraception counselling, abortion-related services, STI-related services, and specialized SRH services – in each of them of over 40% and sometimes more than 50% rise in comparison to 2018.

Reception Center/Asylum Center

One of the main achievements in 2019 is the number of 320 health providers and medical professional trained through our newly developed CME training programme with special focus in the area of strengthening and expanding adequate service delivery for migrant/refugee population, especially in terms of women and girls. This programme also focuses on enriching SRH Serbia's and state institution's referral programmes and connecting those two.

Due to cultural differences and rather heavy situation refugee/migrant population is in and having in mind terrible consequences of long journey to Serbia, they have low chances of accessing adequate health care since health-care professionals, in places where reception centres are located in, have very limited knowledge on service provision in humanitarian context/to vulnerable individuals. Language barriers are an additional issue which is why development of the training itself is a huge achievement. The fact that dr Katarina Sedlecki was the leader of the process regarding development of training module, gave strong impetus to doctors and other medical professionals to participate in implementation of the programme. Another achievement is that gender component was successfully integrated into training design which was

particularly of importance for medical professionals in primary and secondary healthcare institutions as gender-related issues are not necessarily by default primary aspect of their concerns.

SRH Serbia also conducted training for refugee/migrant peer educators in 6reception centres in Serbia. Peer education sessions were conducted, with the aim to empower, educate and train the migrant/refugee peers to disseminate knowledge and information on SRHR topics, as well as on the available services (especially on services which could be provided by medical and health professionals). 330 peer educational sessions were provided by trained refugee/peer educators in six reception centre - reaching 8113 women/girls and man/boys (not a unique number).

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