

In Serbia ageing population has become a matter of urgency. Through comprehensive and cross sectoral approach in the domain of analysis, strategic and policy work and concrete measures in the community, we are directing our resources to understand and mitigate its negative effects.

I am glad to note that this work is recognized in the region and that Serbia is seen as a champion in these efforts.

We have implemented **intergenerational approach**, with a holistic view to demographic change and **lifelong approach** that recognises the benefits of planning ahead at individual and social level to understand that ageing is a lifelong process.

In cooperation with the Statistical Office of Serbia, UNFPA supported the first National Transfer Accounts for Serbia as a **flagship project of the UNFPA Demographic Resilience Programme**. The analysis was carried out in 2021 and illustrates that 63.6% of public resources is directed to older persons.

We will continue to contribute and convene similar activities throughout the region, such as the **Regional Joint Programme** “Upholding the rights and dignity of older persons through health, social care and enabling environments in Europe and Central Asia” of UNFPA, WHO, UNECE, OHCHR and Help Age International.

In line our excellence in responding to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic with special attention to older persons, we have joined forces with several other countries in the Region, **Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Kosovo\* UNSC 1244**, and conducted a **special survey on the effects of COVID-19 on loneliness and social isolation of older persons**. The Report illustrate that Serbia had significant risk factors in positive social support (49%), network size (29%) and satisfaction with health (22%).

With **Moldova and Ukraine** conducted a **research on how gender based violence affects older women**. This research shed light on a completely new topic - violence against older women and 16.7% of older women reported exposure to violence in the last 12 months (2021).

The Equality Commissioner in 2021 **published a Special Report on Discrimination against Older Citizens and presented it to the National Assembly. An integral part of it is research on the Position of Older people in Serbia.**

The report emphasises different manifestations of discrimination against older citizens, the heterogeneity of this population and factors contributing to the specific and increased vulnerability of some of its members.

Age discrimination is a very important aspect that deserves attention. We are proud to report here **that in Serbia we have organised in Belgrade, in September 2021 regional launch of the first UN Global Report on Ageism, developed by WHO, OHCHR, UNDESA, and UNFPA and launched globally in March 2021.** This report is very inspiring. After defining the nature of ageism, it summarizes the best evidence about the scale, the impacts and the determinants of ageism and the most effective strategies to reduce it.

What has MIPAA Report indicated that needs to be done in the future:

- invest in **developing intergenerational cooperation and exchange**, full respect for human rights for all generations, and access to necessary services and to the labour market.
- strategically **plan the integration of long-term care services into a single system** that will be easier to coordinate, more efficient in providing services to more beneficiaries - especially in environments where these services are currently difficult to access.
- fully **recognize the crucial role of informal carers** in providing long-term care.
- Finally, we should strongly invest in a strategy towards the **development of geriatric medicine - more geriatricians, more geriatric nurses and professional care providers** is needed.