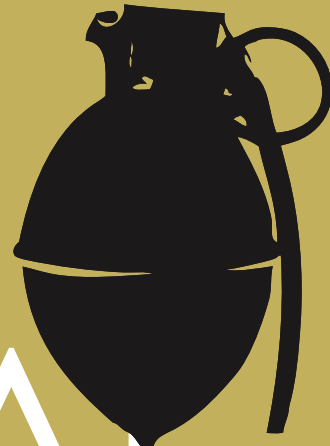


WAR CHILDHOOD MUSEUM

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022







WCM is at the  
forefront of  
projects  
examining the  
implications of  
armed conflicts  
for children.

**THE**  **TIMES**

# WORD OF THE FOUNDER

Dear friends of the War Childhood Museum,

Thank you for taking the time to read our annual report. I hope you are safe and well. I know that this year was hard and challenging for many of you, so I am writing these words in the hope of the following year being better.

We welcomed 2022 with a lot of enthusiasm here at the War Childhood Museum: we hoped the year would bring a definitive end to the pandemic and that we would be able to focus exclusively on our activities. However, in February 2022, an unexpected aggression was launched against Ukraine, where the WCM has an office.

I am proud to say that we have provided every possible support to our team in Ukraine, and that our office there is not only operational, but implementing truly valuable activities despite the conditions. When the first reports of a possible Russian invasion came out at the beginning of the year, we were faced with an unknown challenge as a young international organization. With the help of our partners, we started making evacuation plans for our team and collection, acquired additional equipment such as satellite phones, rented out additional vehicles, and tried, in line with our capacities, to be as prepared as we could in such circumstances. On the 15th of February 2022, I traveled to Kyiv to visit our team. As was the case with all the major cities, people of Kyiv had continued living their lives despite the threat of a major attack that could have commenced at any given moment. Nevertheless, every conversation at that time revolved exclusively around what would happen. Some were preparing to evacuate, some to fight.

On the 20th of February, I left Kyiv with a suitcase containing a part of our collection. We planned to open exhibitions in Belgrade and Prishtina, and we needed some exhibits from our archive in Kyiv. Still, I brought more exhibits than we needed: it was clearly a chance to evacuate a part of the collection if it came to the worst-case scenario. Unfortunately, three days after my return to Sarajevo, the attack was launched on Kyiv and entire Ukraine.

After we evacuated our team and the collection, the WCM produced a special exhibition titled "Listen," whose focus was on Ukraine. A part of our exhibitions in Serbia and Kosovo, and later in the Czech Republic, France, and the Netherlands was dedicated to Ukraine. The exhibition opened for the general public in some cases, while in others the focus was on a specific audience. For instance, in Prague, the WCM exhibited at the biggest museum conference in the world, and in Strasbourg, at the Council of Europe, the exhibition was on view during the week of the plenary session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

In addition to our office in Ukraine, whose work makes us proud, and the joint activities of both offices, namely the aforementioned exhibitions, the WCM office in BiH was growing and working more than ever. In BiH alone, we set up three exhibitions, organized over 200 programs for children, developed and implemented new methodologies, and equipped and organized the new archive space. We welcomed over 20.000 visitors and over 5.000 children who were. Aside from our core work, we realized a series of additional projects and activities which are presented in more detail on the following pages.

# jasminko HALILOVIĆ

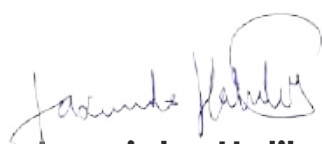
A few days before the end of the year, we won our first court ruling in one of the two cases we filed to protect my reputation and that of the War Childhood Museum. The verdict confirmed that the campaign, which was led against us in 2020 by the Ministry for Culture and Sports of Sarajevo Canton, and which was given support from certain media, was based on a series of lies and manipulations.

Finally, we brought this challenging year to an end in a colorful manner. Once again, our permanent exhibition was filled with decorated gift packages for the children of Ukraine, prepared by over 2.000 children and citizens of BiH who decided to join our call. This initiative was inspired by the stories from our collection that speak about the importance of gift packages of friendship.

We are entering 2023 with the aspiration to make our organization better than it currently is once again. We want to expand our reach and impact, and grow in every segment of our activities. We want to innovate, learn, document new stories, set up new exhibitions, and work with even more children.


We wish peace, both to you and to ourselves.

Thank you for your continued support.



**Jasminko Halilović**

Founder and CEO of the War Childhood Museum



We **wish peace**, both to you and to ourselves. Thank you for your continued support.

# 2022

## IN NUMBERS



150<sup>+</sup>

New stories and exhibits



25.000<sup>+</sup>

Visits



5.000<sup>+</sup>

Students in school visits



300<sup>+</sup>

Workshops for over **4.500** children



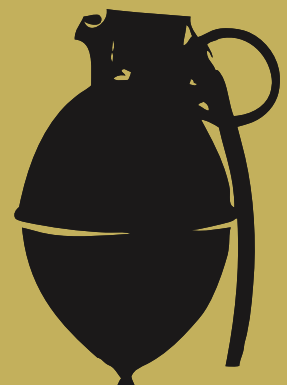
2.000<sup>+</sup>

Gift packages of friendship

- 10 EXHIBITIONS
- 9 CITIES
- 8 COUNTRIES



DOCU  
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AND  
COLLE  
CTION



2022

## DOCUMENTATION AND COLLECTION

# New archive and collection management software

In 2022, the Museum's collection was moved into our new archive at the new location in the center of Sarajevo. The new archive means more space, better control over temperature and humidity, and the possibility for more people to process the collection simultaneously.

The moving process was followed by an extensive inventory of the ways in which the exhibits were stored. They are now grouped based on whether they are made of organic or inorganic materials, then stored in boxes based on the material or the type of the exhibit: books, documents, photographs, metal objects, wooden objects, etc. Numerous special packagings were made for some of the exhibits, including special enclosures ensuring that particularly sensitive exhibits stay in place both in the archive and in transport. Those exhibits that could threaten the other exhibits on account of their condition have been isolated. Finally, we are in the process of assigning each exhibit its unique number, which will provide precise information on its location: which country, city, building, room, cabinet, shelf, box, and part of the box they are in.

At the same time, the team in charge of the collection completed the entire documentation of 1.400 exhibits and more than 600 detailed reports on the condition of the exhibits. In addition to the WCM employees, four international volunteers who spent two or three months at the WCM contributed to these processes. This year, we acquired new and important equipment for archiving: fireproof cabinets, new shelves, archive boxes, and other materials.

In 2022, the exhibits and testimonies of 131 new participants were added to the WCM's collection. The collection now consists of over 5.000 exhibits from 16 different conflicts, which are described in detail and stored in our collection management software.

After many years of work, the software, which was made in accordance with the requirements of the WCM's collection, is now fully functional and facilitates almost all activities in the Museum.

In 2022, the WCM started organizing the first informal visits to the archive to allow participants and other audiences insight into how the museum's collection is processed and stored. These visits will be intensified in the future.



"Upon visiting the War Childhood Museum's archive I was left... Well, to say that I was left speechless would be an understatement! The professional and serious manner in which the Museum staff approaches the cataloging and storing of items, which I donated to the Museum, is unparalleled—no cultural institution in this region that I have had an opportunity to either work with or visit is equal to it.

The items used in the war and left in the Museum "for memory's sake" have been carefully examined and photographed, any damage or even a minute nick has been marked in the digital archive, and the preservation method is impeccable.

When I saw that each humanitarian aid wrapper I donated to the Museum has several pages of description, search tools by which each could be found, cataloging... I wasn't just delighted with the sight of that, but delighted anew with my choice of donating my collection to the War Childhood Museum."

**Filip Andronik**

Contributor to the  
War Childhood Museum's Collection



## EXHIBIT IN FOCUS

# Romper Suit

In April of 1992, I lived with my mother in our family house in Kalesija, while my father was a guest worker in Switzerland. At the time, there were frequent shootings near our house. One evening, mom and I were visiting my grandparents and planning to spend the night there when we received a phone call from my father. He told us that he had reserved a place for us on a bus to Switzerland and that it will be leaving the very next day.

Since it was too dangerous to go back to our house due to the shootings, we boarded the bus with nothing but a small handbag that we had brought with us to my grandparents' place. Only a day after we left, the war in Bosnia had officially begun.

This is the romper suit that I wore during the bus ride from Bosnia to Switzerland.

We later found out that our family home was burned down, and with it, all our memories and personal belongings—the romper suit became the only thing we had left from our pre-war life in Bosnia. As such, it was kept within our family for a long time and this story was later even turned into a documentary.

**Alen, 1991**

The importance of having safe spaces like the War Childhood Museum, to which personal memories can be entrusted, is highlighted by the film "Babyblu" (The Last Piece of Memory) and the experience of Šabanović family, who contributed their only remaining material memory of their life before the war to the museum's collection—the romper suit which their son wore upon leaving BiH. The suit was kept in their home in Switzerland for 27 years, and today it is a part of the War Childhood Museum's collection. This story inspired the Swiss director Lorenz Bohler and the screenwriter Edith Werffeli to make a documentary film, "Babyblu," which relies on this last piece of memory to tell a story about the universal refugee experience. It follows Šabanović family from the moment they decide to contribute this personal belonging, to their arrival at the War Childhood Museum in Sarajevo.

Thanks to the Museum, a piece of cloth with the complete family history that is woven into it gains additional value and meaning.

The "Babyblu" film was a part of the 28th Sarajevo Film Festival program, with the director, the screenwriter, and the film's main protagonist, Džehva Šabanović, as well as her family and members of the War Childhood Museum's team all present at the screening. This event provided an opportunity to, once again, draw attention to the significance and purpose of the collection, which testifies to the experiences of children and their families permanently marked by the war, while underlining how each piece of memory holds many untold stories which need to be documented.



WAR CHILDHOOD MUSEUM

ANNUAL REPORT

# EXHIBITION

2022



## EXHIBITION

# We opened exhibitions in **eight countries** in 2022

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In addition to the annual rotation of the permanent exhibition in our Museum in Sarajevo, we began the year by opening an exhibition in Kherson, in the very south of Ukraine. The exhibitions that followed in April and May opened in Belgrade and Prishtina, shifting the focus to our region. In May, we also exhibited in Sweden in a new and experimental format for us, while already in June, the Museum presented "Listen" at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. The exhibition at the Council of Europe was visited by the King of the Netherlands, the President of Greece, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland, and many other dignitaries. In July, we opened our exhibition in Bihać, which centered on our BiH collection and the stories of children on the move who had been living in BiH for the past few years. In August, we opened "Listen" in Prague, our venue being the biggest museum conference in the world. We finished the year with two December exhibitions—the "Speaking Out" exhibition opened at the Sarajevo City Hall, while "Listen" was presented at Heeswijk Castle in the Netherlands, also in a new and experimental format.

## EXHIBITION

# The new rotation of the War Childhood Museum's exhibition in Sarajevo



Like every year, we rotated our permanent exhibition in Sarajevo to share previously unexhibited stories and personal belongings from our collection. This exhibition focuses mainly on our BiH collection, with 44 out of 50 stories on display being from BiH. The remaining six stories were selected from our international collection, and for 2022 the focus was the WCM Ukraine collection.

As always, the rotation is done following the WCM's methodology, and aims to show as many aspects of childhood affected by war.

Based on the themes they depict, the stories in the WCM collection are assigned into 41 different thematic categories—classifications. Taking into account that stories may revolve around various themes, they are then given primary, secondary, and tertiary classifications based on the methodology. Examples include *General danger*, *Shelter*, *Loss of a loved one*, *Refugee experience*, *Clothing*, *Play*, etc. We use these classifications to ensure that each WCM exhibition shows the visitors the multilayered nature of this experience.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2022

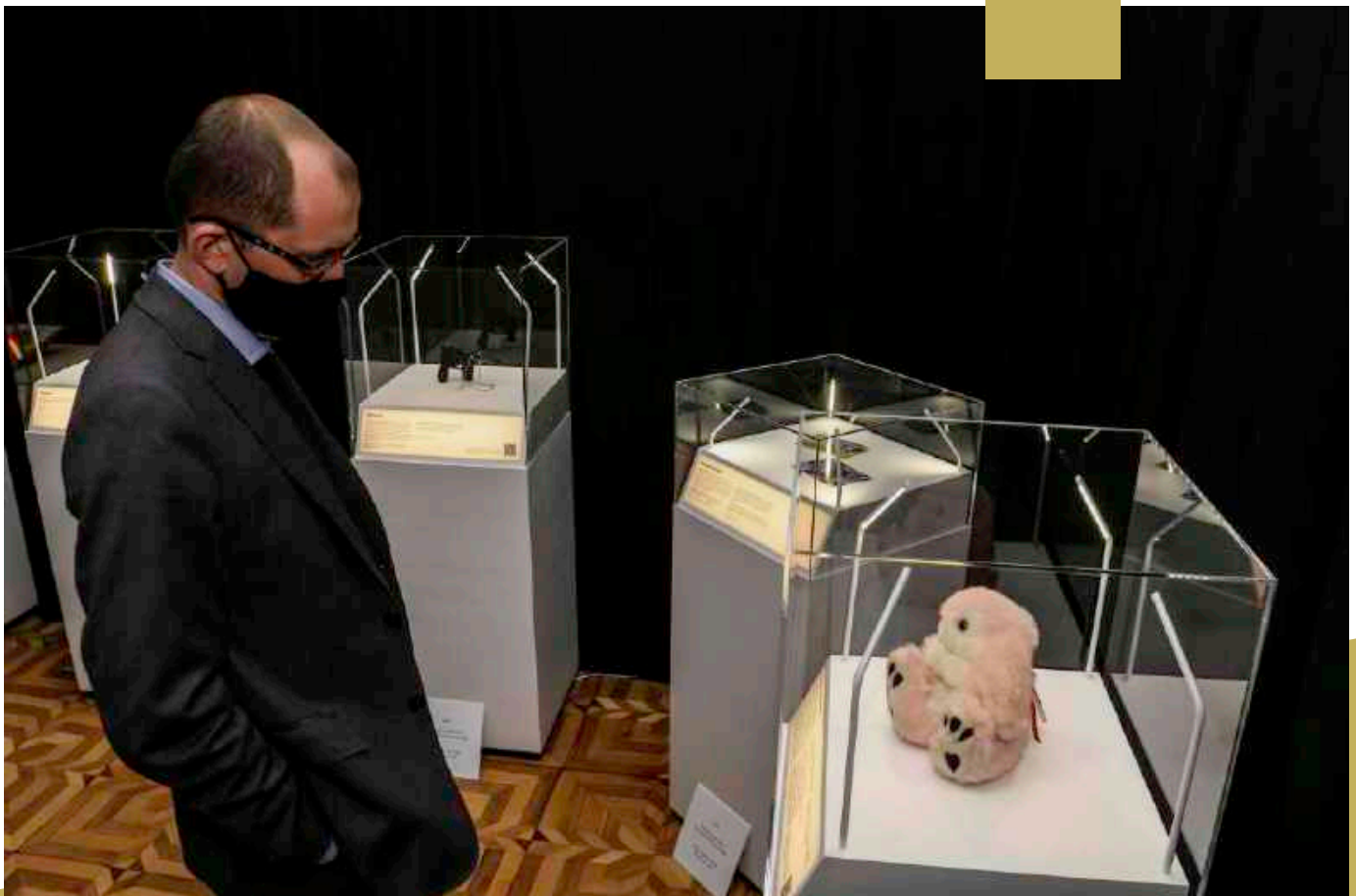
# The WCM's exhibition in Kherson

After the first exhibition in Ukraine, on view in June 2021 at the Kyiv History Museum, the WCM Ukraine opened a temporary exhibition at the Kherson Literary Museum. The exhibition opened in January 2022 with the aim of shedding light on the experiences of children affected by the war in Eastern Ukraine, as well as the occupation of Crimea.

Speaking about the exhibition, Luliia Skubytska, the WCM Ukraine's Director, stressed the importance of one of the WCM's aims, namely the creation of a global platform that would bring together a whole community of people whose childhood was affected by war, but at the same time, help bring this experience closer to those who didn't live through it directly.



Visited by hundreds of Kherson citizens, this successful exhibition was closed in February 2022, only a few weeks before the start of the Russian invasion against Ukraine.

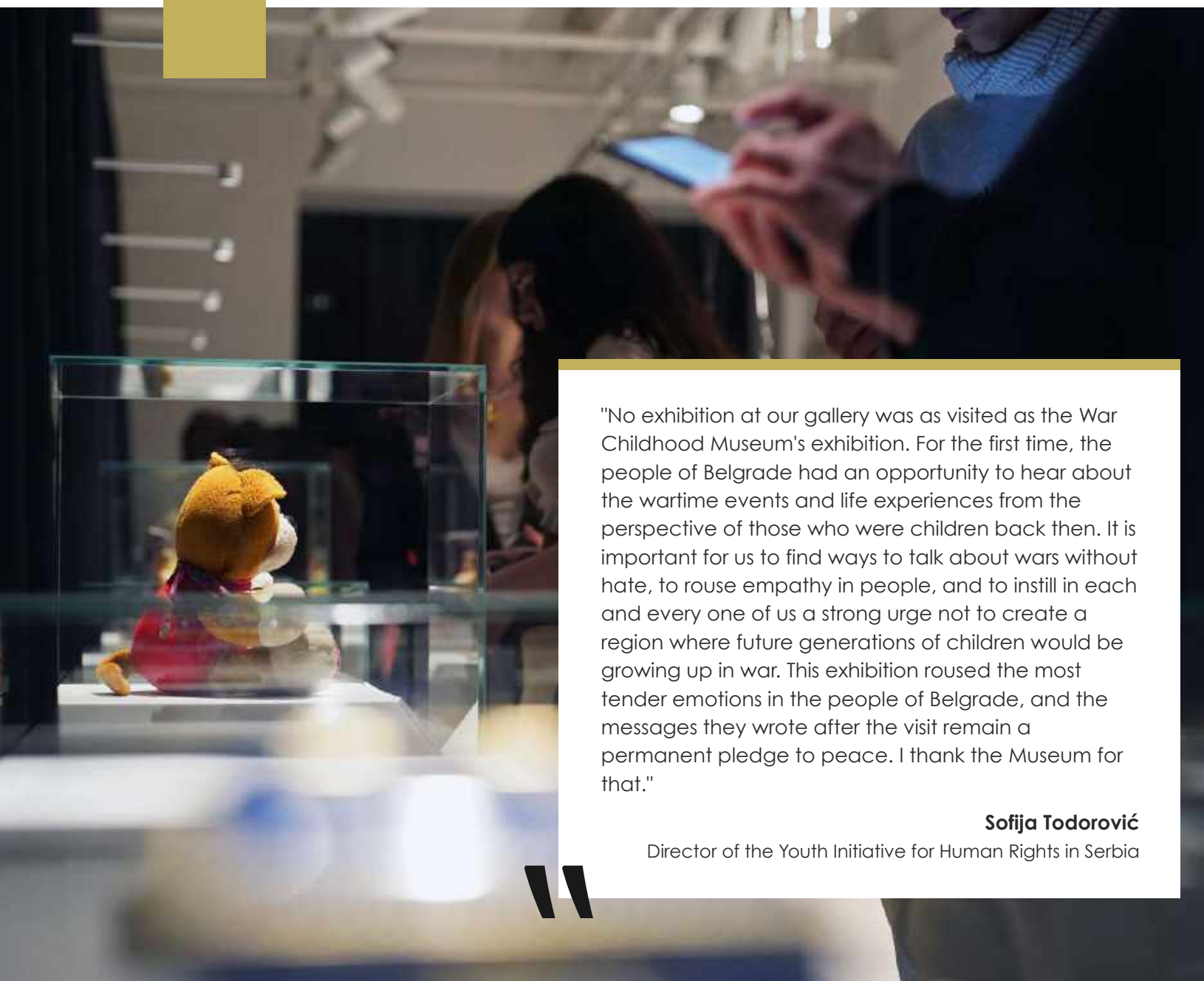


MARCH 2022

# The exhibition in Belgrade

Aware of the importance of museums' contribution to dealing with the past, the War Childhood Museum joined hands with the Youth Initiative for Human Rights (YIHR) to bring its exhibition to Belgrade. Over 1.000 visitors to the WCM's Belgrade exhibition had the opportunity to see exhibits from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia, Kosovo, and Ukraine.

The Director of the WCM's office in Ukraine, Iuliia Skubytska, who attended the opening of the exhibition held at the YIHR's Gallery, located in the center of Belgrade, remarked how the initial research efforts in Ukraine meant documenting experiences of children from Eastern Ukraine, whose childhood was marked by the war. Back then, millions of children in other parts of Ukraine had no idea what war is. Unfortunately, at the time of this exhibition's opening in Belgrade, the war was already experienced by almost every Ukrainian child," said Skubytska.



"No exhibition at our gallery was as visited as the War Childhood Museum's exhibition. For the first time, the people of Belgrade had an opportunity to hear about the wartime events and life experiences from the perspective of those who were children back then. It is important for us to find ways to talk about wars without hate, to rouse empathy in people, and to instill in each and every one of us a strong urge not to create a region where future generations of children would be growing up in war. This exhibition roused the most tender emotions in the people of Belgrade, and the messages they wrote after the visit remain a permanent pledge to peace. I thank the Museum for that."

**Sofija Todorović**

Director of the Youth Initiative for Human Rights in Serbia



APRIL 2022

# The exhibition in Priština

The opening of the War Childhood Museum's exhibition in April, at the National Gallery of Kosovo (Priština), enabled Kosovar audiences to see the stories, personal belongings, and video testimonies of children from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Serbia, Croatia, Ukraine, Syria, Palestine, and Afghanistan.

The regional relevance of the museum's activities was emphasized at the Kosovo exhibition in the context of transitional justice. As cultural institutions, museums have the capacity to help societies in dealing with their past following the end of court proceedings and international tribunals.

"Any meaningful engagement and contribution to the reconciliation and dealing with the past processes in BiH can only be achieved by expanding the efforts regionally. Both the progress and regression of transitional justice processes in the region significantly affect the in-country processes. Starting from the premise that museums and other cultural institutions have the potential and role to play in advancing these processes, we have expanded our activities to Serbia, Croatia, and Kosovo. Our work on documentation and dissemination of materials that give insight into war childhood experiences has the potential to serve as a tool for countering historical revisionism and helping societies learn, accept and deal with the difficult past more effectively."

**Amina Krvavac**  
Executive Director

Besides Hajrulla Çeku, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports of Kosovo, who spoke at the opening, the exhibition was also visited by the Prime Minister of Kosovo, Albin Kurti. "The War Childhood Museum proves invaluable for growing up in peace, at a time when we seek justice for the victims, and for crimes never to be repeated," wrote Kurti in the book of impressions after the visit, emphasizing that the War Childhood Museum's exhibition is both terrifying and beautiful.

MAY 2022

# Pop-up exhibition in Järfälla, Stockholm



Wartime and refugee experiences related to five armed conflicts—Ukraine, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Syria, Afghanistan, and Iraq—have been showcased, in late April, thanks to the War Childhood Museum's new pop-up exhibition in Järfälla, Stockholm. This exhibition was organized by the Cultural Center of the Municipality of Järfälla and on the initiative of their employees whose childhood was marked by the war in BiH.

The Järfälla pop-up exhibition is the second War Childhood Museum exhibition in Sweden, following the exhibition of portraits and stories of people who lived through the Srebrenica genocide as children. This exhibition was on view in the center of Stockholm in 2020 as part of the #ChildrenAndGenocide project.

JUNE 2022

# LISTEN at the Council of Europe

The War Childhood Museum's "Listen" exhibition opened in June at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, focusing on the experiences of children from Ukraine. This exhibition is the reaction of the WCM's BiH office to the invasion against Ukraine, and a word of caution about the necessity of terminating it. The exhibition also showcased some of the stories of the children from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo, as well as those of children who fled Afghanistan and Syria to seek refuge in Europe.



Speaking at the exhibition's opening, the President of the Council's Parliamentary Assembly, Tiny Kox, pointed out that the War Childhood Museum is the recipient of the Council of Europe's Museum Prize, adding that the WCM's collection offers a better understanding of what war truly is. At the opening of the exhibition, The Commissioner for Human Rights, Dunja Mijatović, reminded the assembly of the phrase "never again", so frequently uttered in Europe, and the fact that at the moment we had already witnessed a three-month-long destruction of lives of millions of children in Ukraine. "We bear the responsibility to hear children's voices and put a stop to their suffering," stated Commissioner Mijatović.

The WCM's Founder and CEO, Jasminko Halilović, and the WCM Ukraine's Project Manager, Svitlana Osipchuk, spoke at the opening event, with many international dignitaries in attendance. In his speech, Halilović advocated for more significant support for Ukraine, so that it could ensure the safety of its children: "An entire generation of people from Bosnia and Herzegovina who grew up during the war are now looking at Europe and expecting greater support for Ukraine", said Halilović and added that the WCM would continue their dedicated work on presenting the effects of war on children's lives.



JUNE 2022

# The exhibition in Bihać

The War Childhood Museum's presence in the local Bosnian and Herzegovinian communities is as significant as the international and regional showcase of the Museum's collection. June provided one such occasion when WCM's traveling exhibition visited Bihać to showcase the personal experiences of children from our country, but also Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, Syria, Croatia, Kosovo, and Eritrea.



Speaking at the opening event were the WCM's Executive Director, Amina Krvavac, and the Chief of Mission of the IOM BiH, Laura Lungarotti. Lungarotti, delighted with the War Childhood Museum's exhibition visiting Bihać, Lungarotti stressed the importance of carefully reading the exhibited stories, as they provide an opportunity to understand the experiences that the children, whose childhood was marked by war, are talking about, but also the position of migrants today.





**AUGUST 2022**

# LISTEN at the ICOM General Conference in Prague

After the exhibition at the Council of Europe, "Listen" was on view at the world's biggest museum conference, organized by the International Council of Museums (ICOM), which brought together almost four thousand museum professionals from all over the world. Fourteen members of the War Childhood Museum's team also took part in the conference, which was held in Prague.

The exhibition was a part of the Museum Fair, set up as a parallel program of the conference. It was visited by hundreds of its participants, including a large diplomatic delegation led by the BiH Ambassador to the Czech Republic, Martina Mlinarević.

Other than our Ambassador, the delegation included Ambassadors to the Czech Republic from Thailand, Turkey, Latvia, Afghanistan, Malaysia, Slovenia, Kosovo, Brazil, and Israel.

The War Childhood Museum's Founder and CEO, Jasminko Halilović, took part in one of the four plenary sessions within the conference's main program. At the "Purpose: Museums and the Civil Society" panel session, he spoke about museums' intended and evolving purpose by using the WCM as an example. At the discussion following the panel session, Halilović expanded on the responsibility of museums to be truthful, rather than neutral, when addressing injustice.

DECEMBER 2022

# SPEAKING OUT at the Sarajevo City Hall



After the last year's exhibition at the New Temple Gallery, and the exhibitions in Mostar and Belgrade, the "Speaking Out" exhibition was once again presented to Sarajevo audience at the City Hall. The exhibition was created in collaboration with women who, as children or young people, lived through conflict-related sexual violence, as well as children born of war in BiH, and is entirely dedicated to presenting their personal stories, with the aim of raising awareness about their position in society today, as well as the manifold issues they face daily.

This exhibition was also an opportunity for the local audience to see the "Red Dress," a 13-year, award-winning, global, collaborative embroidery project conceived by the British artist Kirstie Macleod. The survivors who shared their experiences for "Speaking Out" had an opportunity to add their embroideries to the dress at a workshop held just before the opening of the exhibition.

DECEMBER 2022

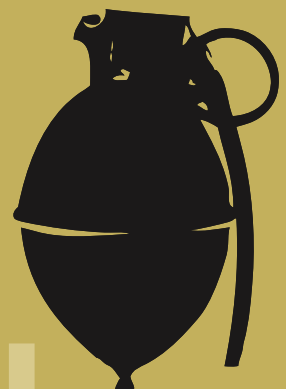
# LISTEN at the Heeswijk Castle near Eindhoven

"Listen" finished its 2022 journey at the Heeswijk Castle near Eindhoven, in the south of the Netherlands. The exhibits were set on display throughout the castle, which doubles as a museum, and in the last week of 2022 and the first week of 2023, it was visited by several thousand people.

Speaking at the opening ceremony were the Director of the Heeswijk Castle, Luc Eekhout, the Founder and CEO of the War Childhood Museum, Jasminko Halilovic, and the Governor of the North Brabant region, Ina Adema. As the Commissioner of the King of the Netherlands, who had visited the WCM's exhibition in Strasbourg earlier that year, Ina Adema welcomed the first WCM exhibition in the Netherlands.



# PEACE EDUCATION



2022

## PEACE EDUCATION

# “Hate never brought any good.”

Implementing educational activities and developing different programs were also among the priorities of the War Childhood Museum in 2022.

As a part of the school and educational visits, the War Childhood Museum's exhibitions were visited by over 5.000 children, young people and teachers, 2.309 of which took part in WCM's educational peacebuilding program, which includes an interactive visit to the permanent exhibition with the help of tablets and participation in the peacebuilding workshop. Besides the Museum's program, teachers receive a number of materials for use in classrooms before and after the visit.

The WCM has been implementing this program since 2019 with the aim of encouraging dialogue between peers in different local communities, while strengthening empathy and facilitating understanding of one's own role in peacebuilding processes. This year we had the opportunity to host children and young people from Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Livno, Travnik, Kalesija, Jajce, Donji Vakuf, Konjic, Gračanica, Fojnica, Lukavac, Busovača, Treštenica, Goražde, Ustikolina, as well as Montenegro, Serbia and Sweden.

The peacebuilding workshops are adapted to different age groups, and are held for children and young people attending primary or secondary school, and university students as of recently. The preschoolers participate in creative workshops exclusively, with the modified guided tour of the Museum organized as well.

Through specific project implementation and the development of new educational programs, the War Childhood Museum's team has improved and enriched families' visiting experience, and that of organized school groups and students, while offering additional content and creative workshops for vulnerable groups of children. We especially highlight the new museum guides for interactive visits for children aged 5 to 12, but also for the whole family, and the collaboration with the "Yesterday-Today-Tomorrow" association, and professor Henry Bell from the University of the West of Scotland, which resulted in a completely new workshop based on elements of image theatre, and suitable for all ages.



## TESTIMONIALS

"I do this job with firm personal conviction that the educational activities we hold, the initiating of open and constructive dialogue about war and peace with children and young people and investing in their knowledge about peaceful resolution of conflict, can, in the long run, fundamentally change BiH. It is necessary for us as a community and a society to aim all our available resources in that direction and recognize the fundamental importance of education on this topic for progress and the transformation of our society."

**Merima Ražanica**

WCM Educational Activities Coordinator

"Working with children as a part of the Museum's educational activities is a particularly valuable experience, because I have the opportunity to meet several thousand children on a yearly basis, from kindergarteners and elementary school students, to children from refugee camps and high school graduates, and hear their thoughts and learn a lot from them. I am proud that, through our workshops, children perceive the Museum as a place where difficult topics are taught in an interesting and accessible way. Recently, we had a first-grade high school student at the workshop, who said it was her fourth time visiting the Museum, and her second time participating in the workshop, because she liked it when she came last year as a ninth grader. I am glad to hear that, thanks to the educational activities, children look forward to coming back to the Museum and recognize it as a place where they are welcome. It is very inspirational to be a part of that process."

**Mersiha Began**  
WCM Educator

"My general impression is very positive. Communication and professionalism were at a very high level, from the very beginning. As for the workshop itself, it is a very positive thing where students are introduced to the stories and the events people go through in war, especially children. All those things are essential for the development of empathy, feelings of solidarity, and respecting another's pain and another's feelings."

**Tahira Halilović**

Teacher at Primary School "Treštenica,"  
Banovići



"My students enjoyed the visit, which, for me, is the best indicator of how carefully the workshops are prepared, but also the entire visiting experience. The reception was wonderful, the staff was kind, and gave students concrete and clear instructions; the workshops' realization gave them experiences they will remember forever. I have nothing but praise for the staff and the educators as well as the ambiance where children spent their time. I hope there will be more similar projects soon. Best regards."

**Aida Jerlagić**

Teacher at Primary School  
"Hamdija Kreševljaković,"  
Sarajevo

"I particularly liked the practical introductory exercise where students had to recognize the mitigating and the aggravating factors of attempting to resolve a conflict. It was beneficial. I would give special praise to the educators' approach of encouraging students to give answers to questions freely. I felt that the final part of the workshop, where educators talked with students about their impressions of the exhibition in the dimmed section of the museum, was especially significant, as well as symbolic."

**Alma Ramić**

Teacher at Primary School "Hasan Kikić,"  
Sarajevo

"I liked that we openly communicated during the workshop, like we knew each other well, even though we were from different cities and regions."

**First-grade secondary school student,**

"High School of Mechanical Engineering," Sarajevo

"I liked the appearance of the museum itself, as well as its purpose and the idea behind it, because you can really learn a lot from the experience of others."

**First-grade secondary school student,**

"Mixed High School of Economics and Catering," Travnik

"The most important thing I learned in visiting the Museum is that hate never brought any good."

**First-grade secondary school student,**

"Lukavac Grammar School," Lukavac



# IN FOCUS

2022



## IN FOCUS

# WCM office in Ukraine and support from BiH

In addition to the exhibitions organized through a collaboration of the WCM's offices in BiH and Ukraine, the WCM Ukraine office implemented various successful activities in 2022. Despite being scattered in multiple locations and different countries, our Ukrainian team responded to new circumstances by devising workshops that could be conducted online.

In 2022, a total of 28 workshops were held for children and adults. The workshops for adults on the topic of How to talk with children about the war? were particularly noteworthy, with both teachers and journalists interested in participating in them. The overall value of these workshops, as rated by the participating teachers, was 9,3/10. One teacher wrote: "You change the way we think. You give us optimism in these dark times." Online readings with the most famous Ukrainian children's author were also organized, as well as two live readings for refugee children in Warsaw i Krakow.

The Museum's efforts to provide children, young people, parents, and other people working with children with meaningful, relevant content have been continued through our website, where our affiliate psychologists shared a series of academic texts and tutorials in the Ukrainian language. The number of readers best reflects the interest in the academic texts we prepared: five academic texts published on our Ukrainian website in 2021 were read by 250 people, while in 2022 this number grew to 22.680 readers of nine academic texts.

Our Ukrainian colleagues actively contributed to WCM's international exhibitions, while also taking part in the opening and presentation of the exhibitions in Belgrade, Prague, and Strasbourg.

At the opening of the Council of Europe exhibition, the WCM Ukraine's Director, Svitlana Osipchuk, delivered an emotional speech, stating that two-thirds of children in Ukraine are directly affected by the war. "My heart is broken by the fact that our Museum has so many new experiences to document. I wish it never happened. Please be with Ukraine and the children of Ukraine," said Osipchuk.

In December, Osipchuk also participated in the "World for Ukraine" summit, held in Rzeszów, Poland, together with the WCM's CEO, Jasminko Halilović. As a speaker at the "Well-being of families in the post-conflict context" panel, Osipchuk talked about the WCM's work, namely the way in which platforms like it can aid individuals and society in recovering after the war.

During this year, the WCM's Kyiv office had the support of our strategic partner in Ukraine, Forum ZFD, our long-term partner in BiH and Ukraine, the National Fund for Democracy from the USA, and our offices in Sarajevo and The Hague. Our Ukrainian collection has been partially relocated to Sarajevo, while the more significant part is in the Lviv museum's archive. The care of the collection has been continued, as well as the processing of the newly acquired materials, including transcriptions, translations, and exhibit descriptions. The WCM Ukraine team has also taken steps to modify the Museum's methodology to ensure that all the activities conducted by the WCM are suitable even during an ongoing war. With that in mind, a series of workshops on oral history, acquisition of materials, and safeguarding children have been prepared.



The War Childhood Museum also served as a platform for BiH citizens to express solidarity with the citizens of Ukraine. The photograph of the WCM's team in front of the Sarajevo City Hall, which was in the colors of the Ukrainian flag, has been shared by numerous Bosnian, Ukrainian, and international media. The photograph had 15.000 likes and was shared over 400 times on the WCM's Facebook page alone. The WCM's logo in the colors of BiH and Ukraine, posted that same week, had 8.500 reactions and was shared over 500 times. These were also two of the most popular social media posts ever posted by the WCM. "I am proud that the War Childhood Museum, as the only organization with offices in both BiH and Ukraine, helped build a solidarity bridge between the citizens of these two countries: I am also proud of how we supported our team in Ukraine. Even though we are a small organization, we showed the resilience and the ability to give support while continuing with our activities," said Jasminko Halilović, the WCM's CEO.

In 2023, the WCM's office will intensify its research activities while continuing with exhibiting and educational activities, expand the archive, but also take the first steps towards establishing a permanent exhibition in Kyiv.





“Having worked in Ukraine since 2018, we have already accumulated significant experience regarding the documentation of children's war experiences. We continuously learn how to avoid the re-traumatization of children and researchers, and how to best support adults who work with children during the war. After February 24, we focused our efforts on increasing the resilience of Ukrainian society and raising awareness about the children's war experiences abroad by relying on the stories from our archive.”

**Svitlana Osipchuk**  
Kyiv office Director

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2022

### "Lejla Hairlahović-Hušić" Scholarship

The Ph.D. scholarship, named in honor of the WCM's late researcher, Lejla Hairlahović-Hušić, is awarded annually by the War Childhood Museum and the "Lejla Hairlahović-Hušić" Foundation, to promote Lejla's belief in the fundamental role of education in society, and support young researchers. The call for applications is open to Ph.D. candidates from BiH, as well as candidates who are conducting research in BiH.

In 2022, the scholarship amounted to 3.000 BAM, and was awarded to Anida Manko, a Ph.D. student at the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Sarajevo, Department of Pedagogy. The scholarship supported her doctoral thesis, "Application of the Universal Design for Learning in Museums."



### Scholarship for Master Program in Italy

In 2022, the War Childhood Museum was again given the opportunity to select a scholarship holder who will attend an MA program in Italy, as a part of an advanced two-year program realized in partnership with the Rondine Cittadella della Pace and the Italian Bishops' Conference (CEI). The scholarship entails attending the University of Siena's "Conflict Management and Humanitarian Action" MA program and learning the Rondine method of creative conflict transformation. Following a year of studies and training, the participants in the program return to their local communities to implement a social impact project of their own.

In 2022, the War Childhood Museum's jury chose Teuta Bicaj as the scholarship holder for "The Mediterranean: a Frontier of Peace, Education and Reconciliation" program. Upon her return from Italy and her studies, Teuta will be joining the WCM's team as a full-time employee for a minimum of one year. During this time, she will implement her project titled "Excluded Narratives: Mapping the Wartime Experiences of National Minorities in BiH."

## Lilliput

This year, the War Childhood Museum was also a part of the International LilliputPlus project, in which the activities of three significant European museums – Galata Maritime Museum in Genoa, Our Lord In the Attic in Amsterdam, and the War Childhood Museum in Sarajevo – were presented in video form. Addressing critical issues of migration, freedom of religion, and war, while including children and whole families in their programs, these museums have helped facilitate social change. Moreover, their materials and approaches are now available worldwide thanks to the LilliputPlus project.

In the initial stages of the Lilliput project, from April to July 2022, the War Childhood Museum was visited by more than 70 families who had the opportunity to use Lilliput educational tools intended for children up to 10 years of age. These tools enhanced the WCM visiting experience, ensuring better quality and interactivity. The Museum's Educational Activities Coordinator, Merima Ražanica, had the opportunity to share the results of this project and present the work of the War Childhood Museum at the "Museums and Families for Change" international conference in Genoa, Italy.



### Interactive guide for families



During 2022, the War Childhood Museum presented new interactive guides for children and families. The interactive guide "Ladybugs" is intended for children aged five and older, while "Hummingbirds" introduces the Museum to those eight and older. The museum's creative team has carefully prepared and designed the said materials, while taking into account the valuable input of families who had the opportunity to use the guide's early version during their visit.

The interactive museum guides encourage children and adults to explore the WCM together, creating an alternative learning space through play and exploration. They will be available during family visits, student visits led by teachers, and to preschoolers.

## Who helped brighten up your war childhood?

With the premiere screening of five videos from the "Who Helped Brighten Up Your War Childhood?" series, and the awarding of certificates of appreciation to several heroes of war childhood, the War Childhood Museum closed the first chapter of its ongoing project which aims to honor individuals and organizations that brought joy to children's lives in war. Several months before the Meeting Point cinema event, the WCM initiated its research by posing the project's titular question on social media. Thanks to the contributions of our audiences, the war childhood heroes we honored together with our friends and participants in the collection were: Mirsad Abdagić Kike, Mladen Jeličić Troko, "Princess krofne" Children's Choir, independent radio station "Zid", and Dražen Žerić Žera.



This first event saw both the shedding of tears and laughter, with reminders of tragic experiences in the past shared, but also of days that the wartime childhood heroes helped make better, especially since the gathering was dedicated not only to those who brightened up war childhoods, but also to the participants of the Museum who entrusted us their memories. The War Childhood Museum is well aware that recognizing heroes and heroines of war childhood is a process that involves many people, always with a certain apprehension that someone might be left forgotten, from dedicated professionals in the medical line of work to those who worked in the educational system. Therefore, by opening up this story, the WCM hopes to inspire other institutions to pay tribute to those who selflessly contributed during the war.



## Self-portrait clay sculpting workshop

As a part of its many activities aimed at achieving greater accessibility of the museum's facilities and materials to persons with disabilities, in 2022, the War Childhood Museum organized an inclusive workshop with a group of participants from the Center for Blind and Partially Sighted Children and Youth in Sarajevo. The workshop revolved around the WCM's collection's self-portraits and techniques necessary to create self-portraits using clay. The tactile replicas of the museum's objects were used during the workshop, along with the stories printed in Braille. As a part of a more extensive project, Aida Šarac, an artist and a museum pedagogue of the National Gallery of Bosnia and Herzegovina, held a training intended for the museum's educational team with the focus on the museum's activities for persons with disabilities.



## WELCOME NOTES



In collaboration with the partner organizations Musicians Without Borders and Superar, the WCM is implementing a project called the Welcome Notes for the children on the move at reception centers in BiH. As a part of this program, 92 workshops were held in 2022, with 1.605 children and young people participating.

The War Childhood Museum carefully designs and implements visual arts workshops, where participants have the opportunity to engage in a variety of fun activities, such as designing and making objects out of cardboard and similar materials, drawing their cities, taking part in interactive readings, creating self-portraits out of clay, and making origami art. Children also have the opportunity to participate in innovative art workshops, such as the image theatre one, where they fill the room with joy and laughter while using their bodies to act out and communicate ideas. Children also built a library with the WCM educators at TRC Ušivak's Social Corner. The library's opening contributed to the girls' confidence, encouraging them to demonstrate a remarkable curiosity. A good example would be how an English reading workshop, initially envisioned as an introduction to a drawing session, spontaneously transformed into an interactive English class. As only one girl in the group spoke English, she led the class with the WCM's educators. This motivated her peers, most of them girls who were initially disengaged, to participate and learn a new language. As the activity continued, all of them demonstrated greater engagement, interest and confidence, with some immediately borrowing the library's English books for further learning.



### **Research and documentation activities in Croatia**

After successfully realizing the research and documentation projects in Kosovo and Serbia, the War Childhood Museum began collecting stories, objects, and audio and video testimonies in Croatia. The project is based on the War Childhood Museum's methodology and has been implemented in the area of Zagreb, Vukovar, Split, and other Croatian cities. The Museum's research team spoke to over 30 people whose childhoods were marked by the war in Croatia, with 26 new objects and personal stories documented and five audio and video testimonies recorded using the oral history method.

A portion of the documented materials was presented at an exhibition in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo, and the Netherlands. In the following period, the Museum will keep expanding its research activities and endeavor to document various materials related to conflict-affected childhood.



### The Italian edition of the book "War Childhood"

The Italian edition of "War Childhood", the book which paved the way for the opening of the WCM, was published in 2022. Following up on Bosnian, English, Japanese, German, French, and Polish versions, this is the seventh language in which the book authored by Jasminko Halilović can be found. The book was translated in collaboration with the Liceo Linguistico & Economico-Sociale "G. Parini" language school, under the guidance of professor Valeriia Terruzzi, with a group of 20 students working on the translation. The book is published in BiH in collaboration with the Italian Embassy in Sarajevo.



### New children's corner

With the support of the Canton of Sarajevo, a new children's corner was designed and equipped in the War Childhood Museum. Following the opening of the children's corner, the Museum will be ready to introduce a whole array of activities to enhance the visitors' experience of the permanent exhibition of the WCM in Sarajevo.

### Gift packages of friendship

The War Childhood Museum saw off the year 2022 by collecting and preparing gift packages of friendship for children who, at this time, needed them the most. Following the previous year, when the gift packages of friendship were intended for the children on the move in the camps in BiH, this year, thanks to children and adults from all over our country, the packages were prepared for the children of Ukraine.



We began this initiative by drawing inspiration from the stories about the gift packages which arrived in BiH during the war. More than 2.000 citizens responded, most of them children who wanted to brighten up the holidays for their peers. Joining us in the promotion of the initiative and making of packages were many primary and secondary schools with which the WCM collaborates through educational programs. In this way, we demonstrate the museums' potential to mobilize their community and contribute to their societies even more.

WAR CHILDHOOD MUSEUM

ANNUAL REPORT

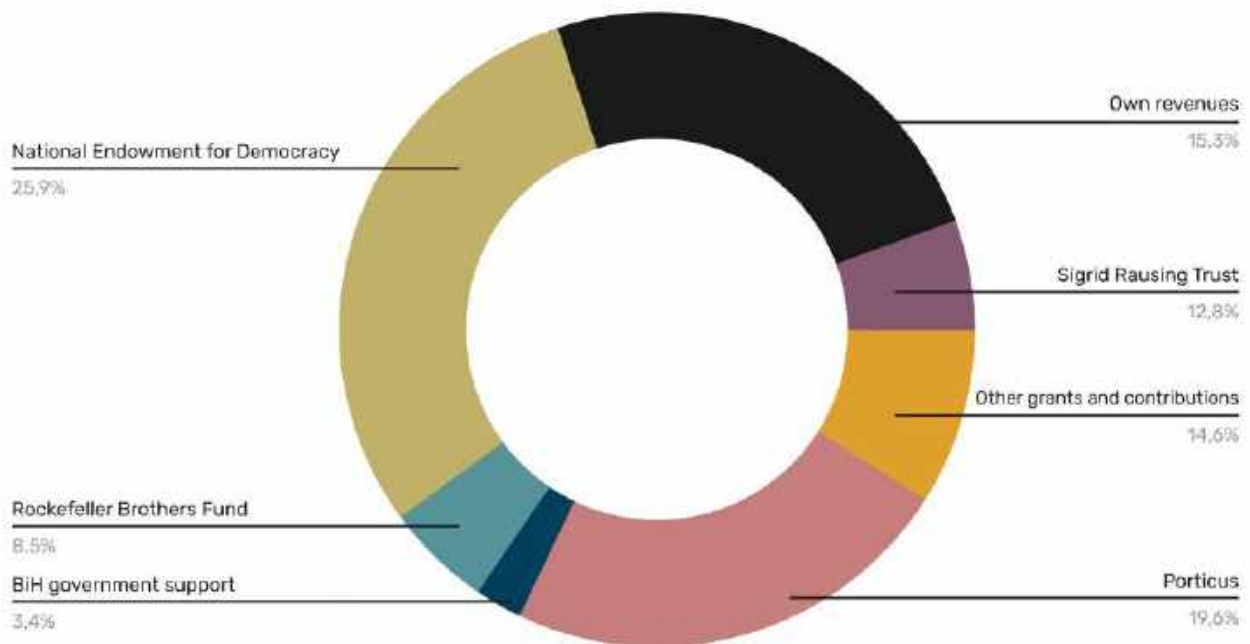
# FINNANCES

2022

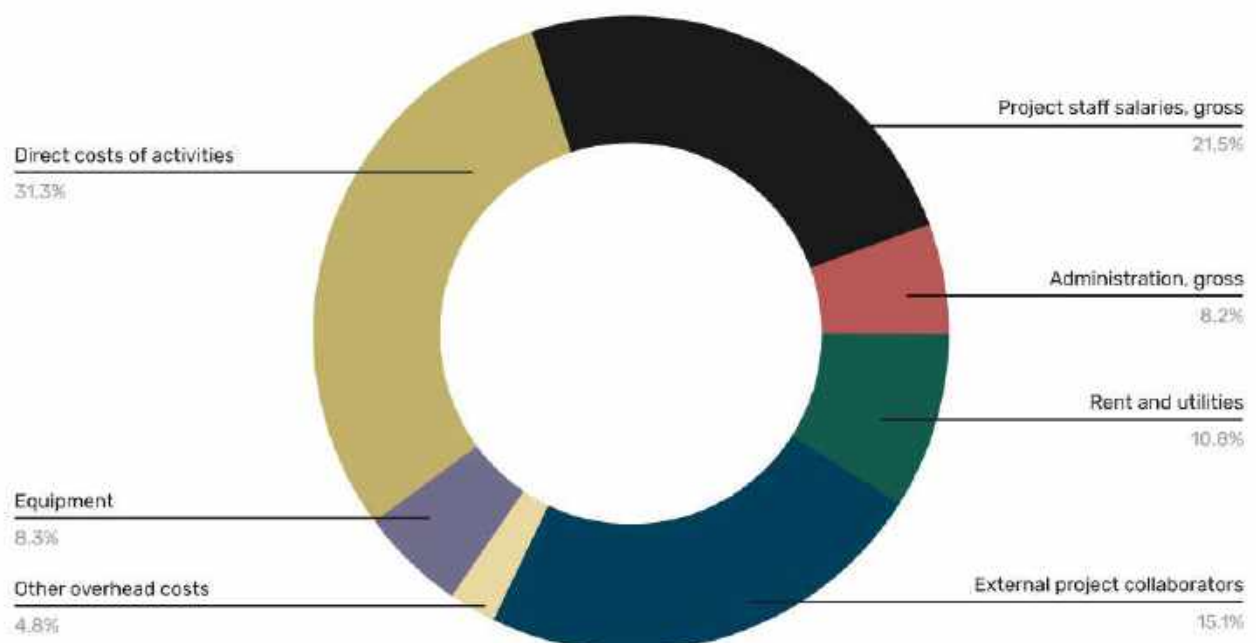


# Financial review

Revenue: **1.150.000 KM**



Expenses: **1.193.000 KM**



SUPPORT OUR MISSION:

Together,  
we can  
do more.



Everything you read about on the previous pages wouldn't have been possible without the support of our donors. Besides the private foundations and governmental and non-governmental funds, our donors are also individuals and companies. If you think what we do is important, and you want to become more involved with the War Childhood Museum and help us grow and improve our work, become our donor.

You can make a one-time donation or regular monthly donation on our website in just a few clicks.

**Together, we can do more.**



"Children having to live through the hell of war is unconscionable. I donate to WCM because it does an amazing job of bringing childrens' experiences of war to life in a way that is both educational and life affirming. I know that my donation will be put to good use to support the WCM's research, exhibition and educational programs."

- **Dr. Brad Mazon**

# We thank



**The contributors,**

and our audiences for their trust.



**The associates,**

and our partners for their collaboration.



**Our donors in 2022:**

National Endowment for Democracy,

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Embassy of The Netherlands to Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Canton of Sarajevo,

International organization for Migration (IOM),

British Embassy to Bosnia and Herzegovina,

City of Sarajevo,

Mistral.







[warchildhood.org](http://warchildhood.org)