



# TOGETHER FOR HER: COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION AND EMPOWERMENT

Comprehensive support for migrant and refugee women affected by trafficking and gender - based violence

## Implementing partner:

NGO Atina - Citizens' association for combating human trafficking and all forms of violence against women

## Supported by:

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

## Duration:

November 1, 2025  
- October 31, 2026

## What is the goal?

The project aims to enhance the safety, recovery, and resilience of migrant and refugee women and children who are survivors or at risk of human trafficking and gender-based violence in Serbia. It provides gender-sensitive psychosocial support, trauma-informed case management, and holistic reintegration services that promote recovery, empowerment, and protection from re-trafficking. Through tailored vocational training, practical work experience, and post-training employment support implemented via Atina's social enterprise Bagel Bejgl and in cooperation with public and private sectors, the project advances women's economic independence and long-term stability. At the same time, it strengthens institutional and community-based protection mechanisms by improving coordination among social services, law enforcement, and civil society, enhancing early identification, referral, and rights-based support for victims. Advocacy, awareness, and training activities will further build trust among vulnerable groups and promote a society that recognizes and protects the rights and dignity of all survivors.

## Where do we work?

The project is implemented across Serbia in locations selected for their strategic relevance to migration routes, socioeconomic vulnerabilities, and active community networks. These communities reflect key protection challenges and offer an opportunity to build lasting local solutions. Each site will establish or strengthen coordination and referral mechanisms that connect municipal authorities, social work centers, police, prosecutors, and civil society organizations, creating a sustainable, cooperative system of protection and reintegration for women and children at risk.

## Who do we cooperate with?

Atina collaborates with local self-governments, the Center for the Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking, the Ministry of Interior, the Commissariat for Refugees and migrants, centers for social work, local organizations, and networks across Serbia. Partnerships will also include the media, the private sector, academic institutions, and international organizations active in the field, such as IOM and UNHCR, promoting social inclusion and broader public awareness. Through these collaborations, the project fosters a coordinated and evidence-based approach to combating GBV and human trafficking, ensuring that fragmented institutional responses do not leave survivors behind.

## What will be achieved?

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### 1. Improved access to protection and recovery services

At least 50 women and girls will receive comprehensive psychosocial, legal, and reintegration support, alongside 50 secondary beneficiaries (children and family members) who will benefit indirectly from improved stability and care.

### 2. Enhanced institutional and professional capacities

A total of 100 professionals, including social workers, prosecutors, police officers, and civil society representatives, will be trained to strengthen early identification, referral, and coordination in responding to trafficking and GBV cases.

### 3. Economic empowerment and social inclusion

At least 20 migrant women will gain access to vocational training, practical work experience, and post-training employment through Atina's social enterprise and partnerships with employers, advancing their financial independence and long-term reintegration.

### 4. Expanded outreach and advocacy

Awareness and field activities in Asylum and Transit Centers in Obrenovac and Bujanovac, and outreach to women migrant workers who experienced labor or human rights violations, will engage at least 150 women and girls. Visibility and communication campaigns through Atina's social media, website, and Mailchimp newsletters will reach up to 100,000 people across Serbia and the region.

### 5. Strengthened cooperation and policy influence

Evidence and lessons from direct service provision, case management, and professional training will inform advocacy efforts for systemic, sustainable state funding for specialized services, contributing to stronger, more coordinated, and survivor-centered protection mechanisms.

## What do participants think?

"It was the first time someone asked me not only what happened to me, but also what I wanted to happen next. That made me feel seen and respected."

*Survivor supported through Atina's reintegration program*



## Which SDGs does it contribute to?



## Need more information?

Visit NGO Atina's website <http://www.atina.org.rs/en>, or contact:

### NGO Atina

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