According to the BiH Constitution, the State has no competence in housing, urban planning or spatial planning.

These areas are regulated at the entity and district level at Brčko.

Recognizing the urgency and need to coordinate activities in the region, and with a view to a comprehensive approach to the recent legislative changes provided at the level of state competences in housing policy, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been mandated to establish the basic principles for coordinating activities, harmonizing the policies and plans of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the international community in the field of housing policy, reconstruction and development.

Source: Housing and the Urban Profile of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2006, Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees

Bosnia and Herzegovina ratified the revised European Social Charter in 2008, but not Article 31 on the right to housing.

Many of these people are extremely vulnerable and traumatized, living in inhuman conditions of displacement. Unfortunately, about 2,700 families continue to live in collective centres in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In addition, many people are unable to return home because their pre-war assets have been destroyed and are on the list of 45,000 homes for returnees awaiting reconstruction or because landmines have not been cleared from their pre-war villages.


The privatisation process included social housing throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, the entities have applied different privatisation models.

Certificate privatisation in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina was an advantageous method for the final beneficiaries, but the privatisation revenues were zero, while on the other hand, by using the voucher system and relying on cash payments, RS obtained much better arrangements regarding the financial effects of housing privatisation which contributed to the strengthening of the housing budget.

Source: Habitat for Humanity