Modelling peace
Sejma Dautbegovic is eight years old and lives in the mountain village of Mehurici near Travnik. She lives with her older brother, mother and father. She loves flowers and springtime because she has a lot of flowers in her garden.

The people in Sejma’s village are shepherds. Usually the girls marry when they are fifteen years old and stop going to school. These mountain people were famous fighters during the war in the 1990s, but Small Steps is working with teachers and students to establish a new culture of peace. As one measure of peacebuilding, Small Steps hopes to see increased gender equality accepted among the community. Already they have seen girls request advanced education after a visit from Small Steps.

Sejma is a very good student and has many friends. She is a wonderful example of new trends in her village. Her father is a teacher in her school and has attended Small Steps’ advanced peacebuilding training. Since attending the training, Sejma’s father has made a huge influence in his school and his home. “I am proud of my father and we help all the children a lot,” Sejma says.

Sejma recognizes how important it is that her father teaches and she feels responsible to be nice and good with other children.

NEWS
The Islamic community of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) adopted a new constitution. Unfortunately, the assembly did not accept open participation in decision-making bodies to women. Communities helped each other regardless of religion and ethnicity during flooding. This is a positive sign that peace building is having an impact.

UPDATE
Small Steps plans to host three meetings of religious teachers before April. Prominent female religious teachers will discuss the new constitution and the refusal to accept articles about women’s formal participation. They will plan to send recommendations to the head of the Islamic Community. They will also discuss how religious teachers can be useful in supporting flood victims.

Thank you for your support
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