



# USAID MARGINALIZED POPULATIONS SUPPORT ACTIVITY (PPMG)

MARCH 2016

## INFORMATIVE MEETING WITH GRANTEES HELD

An informative meeting with grantees as a part of the Marginalized Populations Support Activity (USAID/PPMG) was held on March 7, 2016 at Sarajevo Hotel.

The meeting was attended by representatives of 11 organizations whose projects received support under two previously issued Public Calls: the Initiative for Promoting Responsible Deinstitutionalization of Disabled Persons (ODI) and Anti-Trafficking in Persons (anti-TIP). After a brief introductory address by the Chief of Party Mr. Jasmin Bešić, the attendants had the opportunity to

briefly present their projects that will be implemented with the support of USAID/PPMG.

As a part of the meeting, a brief presentation related to financial reporting was prepared for grantees that aimed to facilitate the future activities of users.

Representatives of organizations used this opportunity to, as a part of the discussion, ask numerous questions that helped them in realizing what every organization is expected to do as a part of financial reporting.



*Grantees during short introductory addresses*

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During the meeting, the organizational development team presented numerous tools that will aid grantees in evaluating the capacity of the organization and will also alleviate the project monitoring and evaluation process. The importance of a serious approach and continuous work was emphasized in the meeting for the purpose of achieving expected aims and project goals. Visits to organizations were also announced during which the project team will provide support to organizations and also perform monitoring over the realized project activities.

## SPORTS WHEELCHAIRS AND EQUIPMENT HANDED TO WOMEN'S WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL CLUB "BAMBI"

As part of the event "Sve na jednom mjestu 4 - #BitnaSam", held on March 29, in the jam packed gymnasium of the "Dobrinja" General High School and the Sports High School, a formal ceremony was held during which the women's wheelchair basketball club "Bambi" was given sports wheelchairs and equipment. The purchased equipment was handed to the members of the club by Ms. Maureen Cormack, U.S. Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

During her speech, Ambassador Cormack stressed that every woman and girl should have the right to participate, to build skills and trust fostered by playing team sports, and change the way society sees them: as strong, competent, agile and empowered individuals.

On behalf of the club "Bambi", the guests were addressed by Šefika Skorupan, the club's president, who expressed







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their gratitude to the U.S. Government, Ms. Maureen Cormack and Peter Duffy, USAID/BiH Mission Director for providing them with professional wheelchair basketball equipment. “Bambi” is the only women’s wheelchair basketball club in our country. Although they can only compete with their male counterparts, these active young women are determined to ensure that their club survives. The biggest problem faced by the club so far was the lack of sports wheelchairs that make playing wheelchair basketball easier and more successful.

The Marginalized Populations Support Activity (USAID/PPMG) recognized their problem and provided all members of the club “Bambi” with new sports wheelchairs, through a Grant Agreement signed on October 29, 2015. In addition to sports wheelchairs, the Activity also provided them with the sports equipment they needed for the club to continue its activities – sweat suits, sneakers, T-shirts, bags, and other necessary sports and technical equipment.

The PPMG Activity provided the club “Bambi” with space for their regular trainings for the next two seasons by paying for sports hall time slot booking. Active participation of the club in the national championship was secured by paying participation fees for a competition organized by the Wheelchair Basketball Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The club’s participation fees are paid for the following two seasons.

## OPPORTUNITY FOR ADDITIONAL EDUCATION AND INTERNSHIP FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

A cooperation agreement between the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the “ProReha” Association – Center for training, retraining and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities and other unemployable categories was signed in Sarajevo on March 29. The USAID Marginalized Populations Support Activity will be financing the project entitled “Education and Internship of Persons with Disabilities” that will be implemented in Sarajevo by the “ProReha” Association.



The project aims to contribute to creating better living conditions of unemployable persons, thus providing them a manner to exercise their right to work, internship and employment.

Additionally, the project strives to increase the independency of persons with disabilities, improve their professional skills and strengthen their capacities in order to make them more competitive on the labor market.

Also, one of the aims is to influence the change of awareness towards persons with disabilities and to remove their stigma, especially in the domain of their work abilities and skills. The direct project users will be 30 persons with disabilities from Sarajevo Canton who will in the following year participate in the assessment of working abilities, in improving their professional skills through different educations and will spend a certain time period as interns at the American Embassy in BiH. The project value is 30,000 USD. On this occasion, the Marginalized Populations Support Activity representatives visited the newly built areas of the Center for support to persons with disabilities in Hotonj, Vogošća Municipality, where most of the project



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activities will be realized.

The assessment of working abilities, educations, retraining, improving professional skills and all other preparatory activities for employing persons with disabilities will be implemented at the Center.

The Center also possesses capacities for providing a whole-day accommodation to a certain number of persons with disabilities.

The users of the services that the Center offers also attended the agreement signing and they emphasized how pleased they were that the project is being realized, since it will aid them in acquiring new skills, knowledge and necessary work experience for the purpose of increasing their chances for employment.



## **PARTICIPANTS LEARN ABOUT BASICS OF PROJECT CYCLE MANAGEMENT AND WRITING PROJECT PROPOSALS**

A training on the topic Project Cycle Management - Writing Project Proposals was held in Konjic, from March 30 to April 1, 2016.

The training was attended by 24 representatives of 14 organizations concerned with issues of persons with disabilities. This training was focused on project cycle management. As the trainer, Mr. Zlatko Sarić, pointed out, this is a topic of immediate relevance that addresses “ways of developing a project proposal and fosters a different mindset, crucial for both writing

project proposals and for some other decision-making processes within an organization”.

In the beginning of the training, the participants and the trainer defined the term ‘project’ and everything that project cycle management entails. While examining the stages of the project cycle, the participants learned about the importance of the documents and decisions involved in every stage of the project cycle. Having analyzed the problems and goals, they agreed that analyses are very important for developing a logical framework.

By using engaging methods and exercises, the trainer explained to the participants, in a straightforward manner, the importance of knowing the differences between problems, resources, activities, results, the purpose and the overall goal of the project for





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determining the intervention logic.

In an effort to boost their understanding of the project planning stage, the participants worked in groups on defining the logical framework, setting hypotheses and performance indicators, and describing the problem the project is addressing.

On the third day, the topic was the budget. Following a brief introduction on what budgeting entails, the participants engaged in various exercises and learned about the levels of project sustainability and mistakes made when writing a project proposal and its corresponding budget.

**“It is a topic of immediate relevance that addresses the ways of developing a project proposal and fosters a different mindset crucial for both writing project proposals and for some other decision-making processes within an organization.”**

Zlatko Sarić, Trainer



*Training participants defining the overall project goal*



*Participants determining goals during group work*



*Trainer presenting a demo example*

**Marginalized Populations Support Activity in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

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