



USAID MARGINALIZED POPULATIONS SUPPORT ACTIVITY (PPMG)

AUGUST 2016

III REGIONAL CONVENTION OF YOUTH TREATED FOR CANCER HELD IN SARAJEVO

The Association Srce za djecu koja boluju od raka (eng. Heart for Children with Cancer) held the third regional convention of youth treated for cancer, which was supported by USAID/PPMG. The Convention was held on August 10-13, 2016, in Sarajevo, and included 50 youth ranging in age from 16 to 26, from Serbia, Macedonia, Slovenia, Croatia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

On February 19, 2011, a Declaration was signed on the founding of a Network of Youth Successfully Treated for Cancer, intended to provide the treated youth with access to their rights, teach them about their rights, and help them overcome difficulties they may be facing in the society, school, or local community.



During their work, the Network members realized that the number of adolescents successfully treated for cancer is on the rise and that they are facing a host of problems, which means that they need support, high-quality re-socialization and an opportunity for mutual sharing of experiences.

The Network was simultaneously created in Serbia and other countries in the region. Then they came to the idea of holding annual get-togethers. The regional convention was held in Serbia twice, and was hosted by BiH this year. The hosts welcomed 40 participants of the Convention, who socialized and learned during the three days they spent together.

The three-day stay in BiH allowed the participants to present the work done by the Network members thus far. In addition to their goal of growing stronger through different activities, MladiCe also regularly visit children currently in treatment and give them strength them by sharing their experiences.



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The participants also had the chance to get to know each other through informal socializing, and to visit the most important landmarks in BiH.

During the Convention, the participants attended numerous lectures on post-treatment monitoring and late consequences, and had the opportunity to talk to a specialist on late consequences and monitoring. One of the lectures focused on self-promotion and ways of succeeding in today's business world. The organizers also held workshops on project writing and communication skills.

Participants consider these activities useful for several reasons, such as the opportunity to spent time with other people who understand them best because they have the same experience, and the fact that they are given a chance to hear, see and learn many new and useful things and skills.

USAID/PPMG REPRESENTATIVES VISIT USERS OF THE “SUMERO” HOUSING COMMUNITY IN SARAJEVO

On Wednesday, August 24, representatives of USAID/PPMG, visited Zlatan, Ismar and Rasim in their home in the Sumero housing community in Nedžarići. During the visit, our hosts told us about their everyday activities, life in the local community, their goals and ambition, and their fight for the right to live in the local community like everyone else – a life fit for a human being.

During the visit, in conversation with the beneficiaries, we had the opportunity to directly experience, in the field, the support services being developed in local communities by the Alliance of Organizations for Supporting Persons with Disabilities in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina – Sumero. During the visit, a working meeting was held with representatives of the Sumero project team.

This project is part of a process aimed at demonstrating that high-quality, inclusive, comprehensive, sustainable and cost-effective services in the community can and should be developed as an alternative to stationary institutional placement in institutes. Through developing housing communities, assessing abilities and the necessary support, educating and raising the public's consciousness about what this population is capable of, the project will directly contribute to improving the position of this population, and preventing and alleviating the causes and consequences of the social exclusion of persons with intellectual disabilities. The project will also enable the building of organizations' capacity for developing programs aimed at social inclusion of persons with intellectual disabilities.





Zlatan, Ismar and Rasim are beneficiaries of the project “DI-SP” – Strengthening the Process of Deinstitutionalization of Persons with Disabilities and Support Systems in the Local Community implemented by the Alliance of Organizations for Supporting Persons with Disabilities in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sumero-FBiH) with the support of USAID/PPMG.

PROREHA STARTS TRAINING FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

In August, the Center for professional rehabilitation, retraining and training of persons with disabilities – Proreha, started their trainings for persons with disabilities. The first workshop was held in August, on the topic Business Communication, as part of the project “Training and Internships for Persons with Disabilities” which is being implemented with the support of USAID/PPMG.

The project’s goal is to improve the living standards of hard-to-employ persons, and allowing them to exercise their right to work and have equal rights to internships and employment. This project is intended to improve independence in terms of business skills, build the capacities of persons with disabilities, improve the knowledge and skills of businesses regarding persons with disabilities, and raise consciousness about the right of hard-to-employ persons.

ProReha point out that persons with disabilities in BiH are exposed to discrimination and many other irregularities on the job market. The lack of support and acceptance in the society makes it infinitely more difficult for persons with disabilities to enter the job market and hold on to long-term employment.

For persons with disabilities, the professional training and employment process is possible only through long-term projects and through opening centers for professional training, rehabilitation and retraining. At the moment, BiH currently does not offer any type of services intended to improve the capabilities of persons with disability in terms of job seeking, internship and employment. Within its program, ProReha designed training and education programs on topics such as developing social skills, business communication, time and stress management, problem solving and situational leadership. They also

designed a program of practical classes concerning technical and administrative work, interior design and greenhouse production.

The first training was held in August, on the topic of “Business Communication”. The training offered participants the opportunity to learn more about the relationship between employers and employees, communication channels in businesses and the role of employees and directors in companies. The participants’ efforts to learn were made easier through various exercises in verbal and nonverbal business communication, external communication with other organization, business ethics, i.e. ethical and non-ethical behavior in organizations.

SRCE PUNO OSMIJEHA VISITED THE PEDIATRIC CLINIC

Citizens’ Association Srce puno osmijeha, started working on the activities planned as part of their project Krug ljubavi (eng. Circle of Love), supported by USAID/PPMG. The Krug ljubavi project is designed to tackle the issue of psycho-social help for marginalized groups of children in BiH.

The project activities include bimonthly visits to the Pediatric Clinic in Sarajevo, for 12 months. The first visit was organized on August 18, 2016.

The Association’s volunteers walked around the entire Clinic, and used modeling balloons and an inspirational musical play on the 8th floor, complemented by a special photo shoot session with clowns, to cheer up all the little patients. Activities included face painting, and the volunteers also made sure that that the photos taken





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are printed the same day and given to the little ones and their parents.

The Association emphasized that the main goal of the project is to contribute to improving the position of children from at-risk categories, improve the psychological condition of the children, and increase the social inclusion of children and youth with special needs. The main activities of the project are aimed at institutions responsible for providing assistance, both in terms of health and psychological support, and educational institutions for children from marginalized groups. All the activities in the project are educational, and adapted to children who use the institutions' services.

The Association believes that marginalized/vulnerable groups of people are groups whose individual characteristics leave them vulnerable to discrimination, more exposed to violence and violations of their human rights, along with being denied equal access to information and institutions, which hinders their active participation in the civil society.

Volunteers pointed out that the activity was conducted in the hallway on the 8th floor of the Clinic, where they had the opportunity to entertain and cheer up children from all divisions of the Clinic who were able to participate. Volunteers also visited the Division of Hematology and Oncology, and supported the bravest fighters with balloons and smiles.





USAID/PPMG CONTINUE PROVIDING ADVISORY SUPPORT TO GRANTEEES

By signing a contract at the end of July, USAID/PPMG supported the project Krug Ljubavi. Of course, the support provided to the Citizens' Association Srce puno osmjeha, was not only financial, but also advisory, which is most often the type of support that association need



most. To this end, on August 31, 2016, the USAID/PPMG project team held a meeting with representatives of the Citizens' Association Srce puno osmjeha.

During the meeting, the Association's representatives were provided with necessary information through a short presentation on financial reporting, whose purpose was to facilitate the grantee's future work. After the presentation, they were given an opportunity to address many of their dilemmas with the help of USAID/PPMG's Financial Advisor.

During the meeting, the Organizational Development Team presented various tools that will help grantees assess their organizational capacities, and facilitate the project monitoring and evaluation process. Meetings such as this one will certainly make the work of the organizations' representatives easier, and help them navigate a system different from the one they were previously using.

Mobile team services provided

In August, the Association for supporting families, persons and the community in mental health issues "Zajedno", from Banja Luka, provided the option of using mobile team services in the local community Sanski Most, along with providing professional support to users of mental health services and their families at home, after they are released from institution, in order to promote independence, improve health, and provide support in crisis situations and help when joining the Daycare Center, or the local community.

Three Center users employed

During August, the Center for Professional Rehabilitation, Retraining and Training of Persons with disabilities and other difficult-to-employ categories – "ProReha" worked on securing new jobs for its users. To this end, they signed a

contract with the company Starline and restaurant Popay, thereby providing jobs for two users, Lejla Insanić and Irfan Kulić, and Elmedina Lelo' employment contract was extended.

Ten children attended program aimed at including children in the school system

In August, the Association "Zemlja djece u Bosni i Hercegovini", continued working on educating children, as part of the activities in their project United in the fight against modern child slavery. Ten children were included in the segment concerning pre-school preparation within the program for including children in the school system through the activities conducted as part of the pre-school trainin of the Daycare Center in Tuzla. The children regularly attended the program, and one of the user families provided space in their own backyard for a group of children in Kiseljak.

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