



USAID MARGINALIZED POPULATIONS SUPPORT ACTIVITY (PPMG)

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LOCAL COMMUNITIES SELECTED FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM FOR SUPPORTING MARGINALIZED GROUPS OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPING BUSINESSES



USAID/PPMG issued a Public call for local self-government units in BiH – Supporting marginalized groups of women in developing businesses, on June 27, 2016, which attracted 39 applications from local communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Commission reviewed all the received applications and selected 9 local communities to take part in the Program. The selected local communities include two cities: Zvornik and Prijedor and 7 municipalities: Rudo,

Tešanj, Konjic, Kalinovik, Livno, Teslić and Visoko. Between September 19 and October 5, 2016, USAID/PPMG representatives signed contracts with representatives of local communities taking part in the Program.

These contracts secured support to marginalized groups of women developing businesses, and USAID/PPMG will provide a total of 342,000.00 BAM for the implementation of the project in 9 local communities, and local self-government units will match this amount.

USAID/PPMG will support the launch and development of businesses by women victims of violence, persons with disabilities, mothers of persons with disabilities, unemployed young women. Help is aimed at marginalized groups of women because the unfavorable position of women and the discouraging statistics on women participation increasingly push women farther



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towards the margins of the society. While entrepreneurship is not a universal cure for all the changes and problems, it is certainly part of the solution. Still, growth cannot be its own purpose. Economic growth through entrepreneurship should offer the possibility of including all categories of the population, and improve social well-being.



Violence is one of the main causes of death and disability for women in the 15-44 age group. Over 80% of human trafficking victims are women. More than 130 million girls and women alive today were victims of genital mutilation. Violence against women is not only a gross violation of human rights, but also comes at a huge social and economic cost and undermines women's contributions to development, peace and security.

This position of women in the BiH society results in an unfavorable position of women in BiH entrepreneurship and economy. In the business world, women are few and far in between, and successful women are struggling to overcome the obstacles they encounter in the still stereotypical BiH society.



Women are a substantial but underutilized force in the BiH economy. The noticeable lack of research on women in the private sector means that their problems and contributions are not adequately acknowledged. Positive changes include the ratification of the Convention on elimination of all forms of discrimination of women and the adoption of key laws on women's rights, including the Law on Gender Equality, the Family Law and the Law on Protection Against Domestic Violence. At a financial disadvantage and contribute to the economy less

than men. 43% of the work force are women, which is very low compared to the global average of 52.5%, and women suffer high unemployment rates as well.



Economic empowerment of women contributes to development, and the creating of economic and social opportunities useful for individuals, communities, countries and the world. Therefore, this calls for closer cooperation among relevant institutions, organizations and the international community in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as BiH diaspora worldwide. In cooperation with local communities, USAID/PPMG will develop a Model for supporting businesses, which will be used when awarding funds for developing a business. Additionally, each approved business will be provided with mentorship for the first year, in every necessary segment. By participating in the Public call for local self-government units in BiH – Supporting marginalized groups of women in developing businesses, the local communities demonstrated their willingness to cooperate on the employment program for marginalized groups of women.

4TH GIRLS ON THE RUN RACE HELD IN SARAJEVO

The 4th “Girls on the Run” race, organized by the Association “Marathon” was held in Sarajevo, on September 11. The “Girls on the Run” race promotes a healthy and active lifestyle for women and tries to draw attention to prejudice and discrimination of women in the society.



The race was a form of announcement of the Sarajevo Half-Marathon which was held on September 18, 2016. 520 participants ran in the recreational race. Alma Hrnjić finished first with 9 minutes and 30 seconds, and Katarina Lemez and Adela Čomor came in second and third, respectively.

The race was held on Wilson’s Lane, starting at 10 a.m. A crowd of participants, both professional and recreational runners gathered in front of the “Bristol” hotel in support of this manifestation that promotes healthy lifestyles. All the participants were asked to choose whether they would walk or run. For most of them, results took a back seat to being active and having fun. The participants gathered in front of “Bristol” hotel, ran towards the Suada Dilberović and Olga Sučić bridge, where they turned around and ran back to the hotel to cross the finish line.



In addition to taking part in the race, the participants and the audience had a chance to make a donation to support the work of safe houses in our country, and some of the funds will be donated to the Association of breast cancer patients “Rubin” from Hadžići.

The “Girls on the Run” race was supported by the Marginalized Populations Support Activity (USAID/PPMG).

LIBRARY – CULTURAL INSTITUTION THAT ENSURES THAT PERSONS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS ARE NOT LEFT SPIRITUALLY POORER

Through their project Publishing the magazine “Svjetlo misli”» and recording books on CD-s the Library for Persons with Visual Impairments brings joy to their users every day by publishing the magazine and recorded



books by various authors. In September, the Library published the 9th issue of the magazine *Svjetlo misli*, and recorded Stephen King's novel *Carrie* for their users. The magazine was printed in 523 copies, and in addition to distributing 518 copies to their numerous users, several copies will be sent to the University and National Library of BiH.

Stephen King's novel *Carrie* was recorded and made into 14 copies, and is available at the Library for Persons with Visual Impairments and its detached departments, and in the University and National Library of BiH. This way, the users will be able to listen to the story of the novel's heroine, Carrie White, and her telekinesis, the superpower she used after prom.

The Library uses this project to provide their users with the opportunity to educate themselves and enjoy world literature. Mrs. Tifa Tučić, one of the Library's users whose vision loss did not prevent her from pursuing her dreams, talked about the Library's impact on her life. Mrs. Tučić is an English Language graduate and a certified court interpreter. Thanks to the resources offered by the Library, she has the opportunity to learn German as well. She is currently at the helm of the Association of Blind

Persons in Tuzla, where she initiated and implemented numerous activities and projects.

She has nothing but praise for the Library, and says that it thinks about students as well: "The Library is very understanding of the needs of blind students when it comes to printing materials in Braille. I experienced this myself when I was a student. Printing course books for language and grammar exercises helped me learn independently as a student of foreign language. When it comes to printing, I had the help of Edin Omerhodžić, an employee of the Library. At the request of our association of blind persons, the Library printed a Braille book for a blind social work student who also lives in Tuzla".

Mrs. Tučić notes that the Library donated to the Association a beginner's guide to Braille, which they use in teaching blind children and persons who lost their vision in early youth or in middle age. She is satisfied with the Library's rich literary collection which shows that its employees try to ensure that blind persons are not denied access to new releases and popular novels. "At a time when people are estranged from each other, it means a lot to me that I can read books in formats





accessible to blind persons. My favorite are MP3 books that I can listen to on my computer whenever I want. Librarian Selena, who is always very kind, recommends good books to me and always tries to accommodate me when I ask for a book from the Library.”

Mrs. Tučić says that she regularly listens to the audio magazine, which she claims is unique in the region. She noted that it offers her access to interesting information on culture that she cannot find easily online, and adds that “The Library is a cultural institution that ensures that blind persons are not left spiritually poorer”.

PROREHA HELPS THEIR USERS AND MAKES THEM FEEL LIKE VALUABLE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY

The Center for Professional Rehabilitation, Retraining and Employment of Persons with Disabilities – Proreha, use their project “Education and Internship for Persons with Disabilities” to improve the living standards of hard-to-employ persons, and allow 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 rights of hard-to-employ persons.

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.

The following story illustrates how Proreha helps persons with disabilities find jobs:

Mrs. Elfa Omerbegović, who has a 60% disability rating, told us how the Proreha staff found her a job.

“A little over two months ago my phone rang. I answered and heard a young, unfamiliar voice, who told me his name was Aldin Drnda from the organization ProReha.

He explained that he learned about my unsuccessful efforts to find a job through the organization Uspon.”

Mrs. Omeragić said that after the phone call they arranged a meeting and discussed her work skills and opportunities for employment, all of which was recorded in writing. She notes that ProReha’s staff promised to find her a job.



“During our conversation I mentioned my love of cooking, so he took my preferences into consideration and found me a job at a restaurant called “Mala kuća”. It’s a small, oriental-style restaurant that serves Bosnian dishes. The atmosphere is very welcoming and the staff is friendly and hard-working.”

After testing her work skills and English language skills, the Proreha staff, thanks to socially responsible individuals, found a suitable job for Mrs. Omerbegović. Considering her high disability rating, Mrs. Omerović is able to work 4 hours a day, and says she is satisfied with her job.



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“Everything that has been said so far has contributed to my personal satisfaction. I work four hours a day and I think that is the right amount considering my health. I feel I’m a useful member of the community.”

DEMOCRATIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION SECURES JOBS FOR 6 YOUNG PEOPLE

The Democratic Youth Organization from Velika Kladuša intends to use their “Youth and the Community – You Have the Right to Know” project to reduce the number of human trafficking cases in three local communities in the Una-Sana Canton through active prevention measures in direct contact with potential victims of human trafficking and in cooperation with all stakeholders from the government and non-governmental sector. One of the ways in which they have

proven themselves successful is by employing young people. In September, they found jobs for 6 young people in companies in Bihać, Sanski Most, Bosanska Krupa, Cazin and Ključ. The impressions of these young people prove that the organization is on the right track.

„I’m glad I was given the opportunity to re-train and become a welder. This is the diploma that got me a job and I will try not to betray the trust placed in me” – Salmir Halkić



“My first job, a wish that came true, is to work as a sales associate. This helped me secure my future.” – Aldijana Aličić

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