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MARGINALIZED POPULATIONS SUPPORT ACTIVITY (USAID/PPMG)

Basic information about the Fund for supporting the development of businesses owned by marginalized women

Total grant amount: 1,640,000.00 BAM

Duration: 1 October 2016 - 31 December 2021

Grant partners: Municipality Kalinovik, Municipality Konjic, Municipality Livno, City of Prijedor, Municipality Rudo, Municipality Teslić, Municipality Tešanj, Municipality Visoko and the City of Zvornik (Public Call I), Municipality Berkovići, Municipality Foča, Municipality Istočna Ilidža, Municipality Lopare, Municipality Lukavac, Municipality Novi Grad, Municipality Prozor-Rama, Municipality Žepče, City of Živinice (Public Call II) and local self-government units that will be selected through the Public Call III.

CHALLENGE

Women in BiH are in an unenviable position when it comes to BiH entrepreneurship and the economy. There are relatively few women in the business sector, and successful women are struggling to overcome the obstacles placed in their path by the still stereotypical BiH society. Women are a significant but underutilized force in the economy of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The obvious lack of research on women in the private sector indicates that their problems and contributions are not acknowledged. Positive changes include the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the adoption of key legislation on women's rights, including the Law on Gender Equality, Family Law and Law on Protection From Domestic Violence. Despite positive legislation and political progress, women are still economically disadvantaged and they do not contribute to the economy as much as men do. The marginalization of women in Bosnia and Herzegovina is evidenced by the higher unemployment rate for women - 18.8% compared to 13.6% for men. At 44.6%, the unemployment rate is significantly higher for men, compared to 26.7% for women, according to the latest Labor Force Survey from 2019. Economic

empowerment of women contributes to development by creating economic and social opportunities that benefit individuals, communities, countries and the world. Achieving this calls for stronger cooperation among relevant institutions, organizations and the international community in BiH, and BiH diaspora organizations.

FUND

USAID/PPMG, in cooperation with eighteen local self-government units (Public Call I and Public Call II) is implementing a program for supporting the development of over 130 businesses, i.e. micro, small and medium-sized businesses and agricultural households of women victims of violence, single mothers, unemployed young women under 35, women with disabilities or with children with disabilities, which contributes to the competitiveness of local economies and creates opportunities for employing hard-to-employ categories. USAID/PPMG and local self-government units joined funds to create an entrepreneurial Fund for supporting businesses owned by marginalized women. Local self-government units will match (at a minimum) the amount of funds invested by USAID/PPMG in the Fund. More local self-government units will be selected through the Public Call III to partner with USAID on supporting new businesses owned by marginalized women.

IMPLEMENTATION AND EXPECTED RESULTS

Cooperation between USAID/PPMG and its partners – local self-government units – fosters an environment conducive to establishing and improving institutional mechanisms for supporting businesses owned by marginalized women. Creating the Fund, with joint forces of USAID/PPMG and partners, is intended to provide opportunities for sustainable development of entrepreneurship of marginalized women, by encouraging self-employment, improving and facilitating their participation in entrepreneurship, and creating new jobs.

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