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BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

FACT SHEET

Justice Project in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Project Snapshot

Total Funding: \$9.4 million

Start Date: September 2014

End Date: September 2019

Implementing Partner: Millennium DPI Partners

The Challenge

Despite progress made in reforming the justice sector, rule of law in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) remains weak. Shortcomings in the independence, efficiency and effectiveness of justice sector institutions persist along with corruption and other threats to justice. Chief prosecutors have no merit-based system for staff appraisals, and failure to perform the duties of one's job carries few consequences. Citizens are concerned and frustrated by the lack of transparency, impartiality and efficiency within the judiciary and prosecutorial services. Survey data consistently rate corruption as one of the top three concerns for BiH citizens, while public confidence in the government's ability – or will – to combat corruption continues to decline.



Our Program

The USAID **Justice Project** assists prosecutors, judges and other justice sector actors to be more functional, accountable and responsive to the needs of BiH citizens. The project's three main goals are to improve the performance, employment status and authority of prosecutors; increase efficiency in the enforcement of legal judgments; and strengthen the ability of judicial institutions to fight corruption.

Implementation and Expected Results

Through this project, USAID will partner with all 19 prosecutors' offices to help them do their job – to prosecute cases of corruption and organized crime – efficiently and effectively. We will introduce new management systems for conducting performance appraisals, giving merit-based promotions, and providing incentives and rewards for successfully prosecuting cases. The project will provide prosecutors with technical assistance and mentoring to help them operate efficiently. We are also supporting development of a new, special anti-corruption unit in the BiH Federal Prosecutor's Office, a unit mandated by a 2014 anti-corruption law.

To improve efficiency in the enforcement of legal judgments, the project will work with selected courts to streamline procedures and reduce case backlogs, and will propose legislative changes to do so, if necessary. We also provide training to build the capacity of court enforcement agents (bailiffs).

To strengthen the ability of justice sector institutions to combat corruption, the project provides mentoring, training and other technical assistance to the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council, the Office of Disciplinary Counsel, the prosecutors' offices and other key stakeholders. This assistance is designed to help them investigate and prosecute high-profile corruption and economic crime cases free from political and other improper influence. This will all be achieved by facilitating cooperation among state, entity and local justice sector actors.

(Rev. March 2015)