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TOGETHER AGAINST COVID

Together Against COVID is a twenty-month, \$2,750,000 project that aims to support Serbia's response to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic in the areas of health, and social and environmental protection. The activity partners with, and provides support to, the Ministry of Health; the National Public Health Institute "Dr Milan Jovanović Batut" (PHI Batut); the Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs; the Institute for Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering (IMMGE); the Institute for the Application of Nuclear Energy (INEP); the Office for IT and eGovernment (ITE); and the Institute for AI Research and Development.

ACTIVITIES IN SERBIA

- Procuring ambulances for primary, secondary, and tertiary health centers to help patients throughout the country safely reach medical facilities and receive life-saving assistance.
- Equipping a Communications Hub at the PHI Batut in Belgrade and equipping regional and local PHI centers to foster better coordination of the COVID-19 immunization and response efforts, as well as future public health emergencies.
- Procuring communications equipment for public care facilities for the elderly enabling them to stay in touch and communicate safely with their families during and following the pandemic.
- Procuring basic waste management equipment for the safe disposal of medical waste resulting from the mass vaccination efforts, to minimize the impact of COVID-19 and future pandemics on the environment.
- Strengthening capacity for detection, treatment and mitigation of risks. This will be done by supporting medical research, education on public health threats, development of IT solutions, and equipping of relevant national institutions (IMGGE, INEP, PHI Batut).

RESULTS

- Eleven ambulances were procured for healthcare institutions and delivered to: general hospitals in Jagodina and Loznica; the special hospital for non-specific pulmonary diseases in Sokobanja and primary health care centers in Bogatić, Kraljevo, Vranje, Jagodina, Merošina, Ljig, Veliko Gradište and Svrlijig.
- The PHI Batut premises in Belgrade were refurbished to host the Communications Hub.
- The PHI Batut and all regional PHI communication centers were fully equipped, enabling real-time crisis communications.
- ICT equipment (tablets and televisions) were procured for 36 public centers for elderly.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PROJECT FUNDING

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID/Serbia)

TOTAL FUNDING

\$2,750,000

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Serbia in coordination with the General Secretariat of the Government of Serbia.

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KEY COUNTERPARTS

MoH, PHI Batut, MLEVSA, Cabinet of the Prime Minister, IMMGE, INEP, ITE, AI Institute.

PROJECT SPAN

Nationwide

PROJECT DURATION

March 2021 – October 2022