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USAID SERBIA'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

USAID has provided more than \$8 million in COVID-19 assistance to Serbia as part of the U.S. Government's overall \$9.1 million of support to Serbia's fight against COVID-19. This support helped to meet needs identified by the Government of Serbia. Through a wide range of partnerships, we supported Serbia's COVID response with everything from medical equipment and testing containers for hospitals to working with the Red Cross to help vulnerable families get through the crisis.

DETAILS

World Health Organization (\$3,000,000): USAID provided funding to the WHO to procure a range of equipment including oxygen concentrators; 3,400 pulse oximeters; four containers for triage (screening and taking test samples); 30 patient monitors; three mobile x-ray machines; training for newly hired health professionals, and an epidemiology study. The partnership also supported country-level coordination, planning, and monitoring; infection prevention and control; and case management. Currently, we are working together to implement a risk communication and community engagement strategy to increase vaccine acceptance and counter disinformation.

UNDP "Together Against COVID" project (\$2,750,000): USAID helped the Institute for Public Health "Milan Jovanović Batut" establish a communications hub called the "National Operative Center for Immunization"; procured 11 ambulances for local health centers; installed communications equipment in public centers for the elderly to help them stay in touch with loved ones; helped manage waste from the administration of COVID-19 vaccines, and established an alert system for regional outbreaks and an e-Vaccination portal. We are currently procuring diagnostic and genome sequencing equipment to help Serbia track virus variants.

UNICEF (\$1,400,000): USAID supported UNICEF working with the Serbian Red Cross to help vulnerable families mitigate the effects of the COVID pandemic. Efforts included the provision of hygiene kits to support 10,000 most-at-risk families from the poorest households in Roma settlements, residential institutions, and refugee and migrant centers; information about COVID-19 prevention measures and other relevant services to vulnerable populations; cash assistance to approximately 2,000 single-parent families and families with a large number of children in 30 municipalities; “Learn through Play” kits for children to continue learning in a fun way during the lockdown; and, support to develop local solutions to the medical supply problem through the UNDP Challenge call.

Election COVID Safety grant (\$300,000): USAID partnered with Consortium for Elections and Political Processes Strengthening (CEPPS) to support the Republic Electoral Commission (RIK) to develop and implement a COVID-19 and Elections Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategy. This helped the RIK to adopt operational procedures and protocols in 2020 to combat the spread of COVID-19 and inform voters how to vote safely.

Energy Activity (\$230,000): USAID refurbished six substations for heating and sanitary hot water at the Pančevo Hospital complex, which was a designated COVID-19 regional hospital, and provided equipment and software to fully automate operations, thus enabling real time management and monitoring of its heating system.

Red Cross of Serbia grant (\$150,000): USAID partnered with the Red Cross to purchase and distribute food and sanitation kits for 4,000 families and provided support for mobile assistance teams.

ELISA antibody test assessment (\$145,000): USAID assisted the Institute for the Application of Nuclear Technology in Agriculture (INEP) to receive third-party validation of its ELISA antibody test, be included on the WHO-approved list, and identify potential export markets for the test.

Rotary Hearts of Europe grant (\$74,040): USAID partnered with Rotary Clubs in Serbia and the U.S. to purchase disease testing and diagnostic equipment for the Čačak Public Health Institute. The Institute received a U.S.-manufactured polymerase chain reaction (PCR) apparatus laboratory to improve its SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic capacity and support to conduct community outreach on COVID-19 prevention. With the new equipment, the 200,000 residents of the Marovica District will also have improved access to testing for a wide range of other infections and life-threatening diseases.