



FACT SHEET

USAID Flood Response in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Challenge

The heaviest rainfall in recorded history caused widespread floods and some 2,000 landslides across Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in May 2014, destroying everything in their path and affecting one-quarter of the country's population. Bridges, roads and other infrastructure were damaged extensively. Some 80,000 homes were lost or damaged. Businesses and farms incurred minor to total losses of crops and animals, places of business, inventories, equipment and machinery, and most businesses were still not functioning three months later. Damages and losses are estimated at more than \$2 billion. New flooding in early August was a setback to recovery efforts, and in some areas was more damaging than the May floods.

Our Program

The U.S. Government, primarily through the USAID Flood Recovery Initiative, has committed a total \$15 million to provide for immediate humanitarian needs, including rescue boats, and help citizens rebuild their lives, rehabilitate community infrastructure, restart businesses and restore agricultural production. Most of USAID's flood recovery activities focused on the most flood-affected municipalities of Doboj, Maglaj and Samac.

To deliver assistance during the recovery phase, USAID redirected activities of its main projects toward flood recovery and created new partnerships, as well. Among these activities, the USAID FARMA Project¹ is helping to restore agricultural productivity and income of flood-affected farmers in 25 municipalities, and to reconnect rural communities and markets. Through June 2015, the USAID FIRMA Project² disbursed \$1.7 million in small grants to help flood-affected small businesses restart operations, retain employees, and maintain their place in the market. FIRMA also helps companies apply to banks, government, and international financial



Maglaj man stands in his home after May 2014 floods in Bosnia and Herzegovina. (Photo: Velija Hasanbegovic)

institutions to obtain loans for lost equipment. USAID allocated an additional \$2 million each to FIRMA and FARMA for flood recovery, and was able to enhance this assistance by negotiating additional funds from the Sweden's Sida. In addition, USAID and partner Catholic Relief Services³ are rebuilding key infrastructure in Maglaj, Doboj, Doboj Jug, Šamac, and Domaljevac-Šamac.

Through its partnership with Save the Children⁴, USAID provided emergency relief items and water, sanitation and hygiene assistance to 16,140 flood-affected families. Through partner Mercy Corps⁵, USAID provided small cash grants to 5,000 micro-entrepreneurs and farmers in remote villages.

To assist vulnerable families in the most flood-affected areas of the RS and Federation, USAID launched a \$2 million activity with UNDP to construct 150 new homes – 75 in each entity.

¹ FARMA: USAID \$2 million, Sida \$1 million

² FIRMA: USAID \$2 million, Sida \$650,000

³ CRS: \$4 million

⁴ Save the Children: \$200,000

⁵ Mercy Corps: \$700,000

Implementation and Results

The U.S. Government provided more than \$2.5 million in humanitarian assistance in the immediate aftermath of the disaster, including 26 rescue boats in the first 24 hours of the emergency declaration, which saved hundreds of lives. The difficult task of recovery then began.



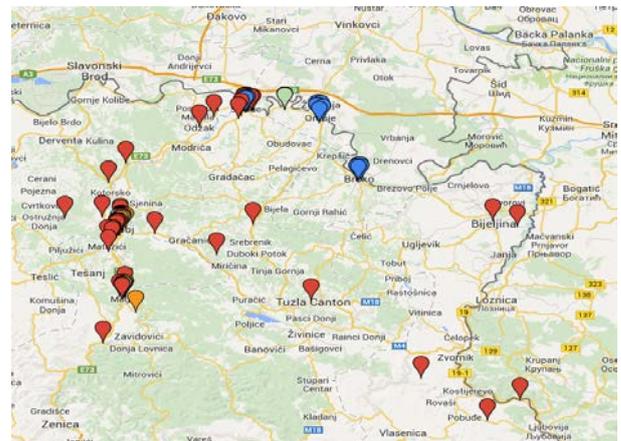
USAID volunteers in Maglaj to help families dig out of mud after floods of May 2014. (Photo: Velija Hasanbegovic)

USAID immediately committed more than \$100,000 to farmers in Doboj, Samac and Bratunac. We helped renovate the veterinary facility of Samac, and have provided a grant to a small dairy farmers co-op in Bratunac. We helped 26 dairy farmers in Samac, who lost 339 (one-third) of their dairy cows and all planted and stored animal feed, to re-cultivate and re-plant 84 hectares of land, and an association in Doboj so it can deliver technical assistance to some 5,000 flood-affected farmers in the area. We helped 14 women farmers in Bratunac replace or repair greenhouses and irrigation systems to restore production of vegetables, their sole source of income.

USAID sought proposals from private companies in Doboj, Doboj-Jug, Maglaj, Domaljevac-Samac and Samac for grants to restart manufacturing and save jobs, and went to Doboj, Samac and Maglaj to explain the application process.

We launched three “quick-start” infrastructure projects to renovate the Veterinary Station in Samac, renovate the Bare-Kostajnica Bridge in Doboj, and reconstruct a major road in Maglaj. Physical work will begin in September. We have provided hygiene and personal protection packets to 3,460 families, and are providing restart funds to 5,000 micro-entrepreneurs. Separately, USAID is delivering four truckloads of furniture and equipment to a flood-affected elementary school in Zepce and the Srebrenica Peace Camp.

To ensure radical transparency of its Flood Recovery Initiative, USAID created an interactive online map (www.brana.ba) to allow citizens to monitor the progress of USAID’s flood recovery projects on a daily basis.



USAID Flood Recovery Initiative Results

1. 8,978 full-time jobs saved and 50 new ones created (farm and non-farm jobs)
2. 2,855 seasonal jobs sustained
3. 70 companies from flood-affected areas will directly benefit from USAID assistance
4. 3,338 farmers and agricultural cooperatives restore production
5. 262 local businesses regain access to community infrastructure damaged in the floods (bridges, water supply, and electricity)
6. 45 flood-damaged community infrastructure projects completed
7. 30 out of 150 homes constructed for vulnerable families in flood-affected areas (all homes will be completed by May 2016)