



USAID
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BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

FACT SHEET

Growth-Oriented Local Development Project

Project Snapshot

Total Funding: \$18.5 million*

Start Date: August 2013

End Date: August 2018

Implementing Partner: Deloitte Consulting LLP

*USAID \$9.75 million, Sida \$9.75 million

USAID works with partner communities to create a model for local economic development that can be replicated throughout the country, laying the groundwork for sustained growth in jobs and exports.

The Challenge

Lack of jobs is the leading concern of working-age citizens in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). Unemployment rates in BiH range from 24 percent to 44 percent and are especially high for youth. BiH lags behind its neighbors in political and economic reforms. As a result, the level of Foreign Direct Investment per capita in BiH is among the lowest in the region. At the local level, economic growth has been hampered by a number of factors, including costly and lengthy business startup processes, inadequately skilled workforce, inaccessible credit and a lack of municipal engagement in attracting investors. BiH needs to unlock its potential for economic growth, increase productivity of private enterprises, and substantially improve the business environment to attract investments and increase exports. This means improving economic governance, institutions, systems and processes to increase private sector competitiveness.

Our Program

The **Growth-Oriented Local Development (GOLD)** Project is jointly financed by USAID and the Swedish International Development and Cooperation Agency (Sida). To assist local communities in achieving their economic growth and development goals, the GOLD Project:

- Promotes integrated and inclusive local economic development (LED) planning and implementation in collaboration with municipalities in sectors with the highest potential for rapid and sustainable growth in jobs, sales and exports;
- Helps unlock the economic potential of municipal assets and promotes new investments that support the targeted sectors through public-private partnerships;
- Engages stakeholders to improve public service delivery and implement business enabling environment reforms; and
- Promotes new direct investment, supports competitive supply chains, stimulates entrepreneurship, and develops workforce training programs to create jobs, with a special focus on women and youth.

Implementation and Results

The GOLD Project uses the Business Friendly Certification (BFC) process as the framework for providing technical assistance to its 47 partner municipalities. The BFC process identifies 80 elements for municipal economic preparedness. The project works directly with citizens, leaders in the private sector, academia, NGOs, and the donor community in a business-led effort to generate transformational economic growth. The resulting sustainable and replicable LED platforms will enable localities to maintain the momentum in economic growth into the future.

	5-year Targets	Results as of June 2015
Job creation	6,020	1,538
Increase in investment	\$90 million	\$62 million
Increase in exports	\$70 million	\$14 million
Increase in sales	\$130 million	\$18 million