

PROJECT FACTSHEET

Bosnia and Herzegovina January 2017

IMPROVING WATER SERVICES AND CREATING BUSINESS FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENTS



MUNICIPALITIES AS KEY DRIVERS OF CHANGE IN BIH

The MEG project will support municipalities to improve their governance and provide public services in an inclusive, effective and efficient manner. By supporting the economic and environmental sectors, where municipalities invest the most of funds, the project will positively affect municipal development as a whole. To start collective action and ensure a country-wide best practice exchange, the project will also contribute to regulatory changes at higher government levels.

The project will support and create synergies between municipalities, businesses, ministries at the entity and cantonal levels, associations, and professional thematic networks. Around 700'000 citizens, including 40'000 socially excluded, will benefit from the improved local services, employment opportunities or improved business environment.

- Strengthening municipalities to provide good quality services in the environmental and economic sector

The Municipal Environmental and Economic Governance (MEG) project aims to improve municipal management systems and services in the environmental and economic sectors. The improvements will result in better local services, improved accountability and trust building between municipalities, citizens and businesses. Special attention will be paid to improving living conditions of vulnerable groups.

Municipal governance is directly responsible towards citizens and has great development potential. Municipalities and their leaders are the most dynamic government actors, sensitive for the needs of citizens, their better living conditions and employment. However, political deadlocks and complex constitutional arrangements have resulted in a slow pace of reforms, lack of investments, high levels of unemployment and growing social inequalities. The effect of poor governance was seen during the catastrophic floods in 2014, which showed low resilience and capacities to cope with the consequences of natural disasters.

The MEG project will operate in 20-25 municipalities – working with mayors, administration and municipal councils – to develop capacities, provide support to capital investments, and improve economic framework. Citizens, businesses and civil society will participate in policy design and management of projects, but also monitor service delivery. Strengthening the public-private dialogue should unlock their potential and contribute to development and growth. The municipalities will also be able to increase access of socially excluded to public services, equal employment opportunities and jobs. Within the environmental sector the focus will be on water services and improving the technical and management capacities of water utilities. In the economic sector the focus will be on creating a business friendly

environment, one that would encourage development, and improving administrative services.

- Advocating for municipalities' interests and improving regulatory framework at higher government levels

Entities, cantons and municipalities will be supported in developing new or revising existing laws, by-laws, methodologies and procedures to achieve a more inclusive and effective local service delivery. The MEG project will consult and cooperate with the Association of Municipalities and Cities which will serve as the voice of municipalities' interests. Municipalities will be additionally empowered through national thematic professional networks, such as Aquasan, which will become advocates for improved legislation, public services, and provide best practice exchange. Such country-wide proactive networking and exchange will widen the outreach and contribute to building bridges across regions and entities.

PREVIOUS SUCCESSES CREATED MOMENTUM

The MEG project is a follow up of the Governance Project in Municipal Water and Environmental Development (GOV-WADE) that supported practicing of good governance principles in the provision of water and environmental services. GOV-WADE confirmed that it is worth to invest in the improvement of municipal development capacities and practices. From 2016 to 2020, the MEG project will focus on 18 advanced municipalities (grouped in two clusters in northern BiH), who have previously demonstrated capable municipal leadership and basic capacities to undertake this development process. However, support for additional less developed municipalities is also possible.

THE PROJECT IN BRIEF

NAME:

Municipal Environmental and Economic Governance (MEG) project

DOMAIN:

Democratic Governance, Municipal Services and Justice

THEME:

Governance, Institutions and Decentralization

LAND/REGION:

Bosnia and Herzegovina

PARTNER:

United Nations Development Program (UNDP), as the Implementing Agency

BiH Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations

Governments of the Republika Srpska and the

Federation of BiH

Governments of three cantons

18 municipalities (phase I): northwestern cluster

(Bosanska Krupa, Gradiška, Prijedor, Sanski Most,

Cazin, Velika Kladuša, Bihać, Kozarska Dubica and

Kostajnica); northeastern cluster (Tešanj, Teslić, Žepče,

Gračanica, Doboj, Kalesija, Tuzla, Gradačac and

Prnjavor)

Eight development agencies

STARTING POINT / BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Municipal governance is the most dynamic functional

level, but municipalities face challenges in financial

sustainability, coordination among governance levels,

and inefficient systems which hamper good quality

service delivery and catering to the needs of citizens.

Furthermore, inclusion of the private sectors, CSOs, and

the citizens (especially marginalized groups) is low.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE:

The MEG project will focus on improving the municipal governance in the environmental and economic sectors, which could affect municipal development as a whole.

Not only will the capacities of municipalities and its

staff be strengthened, but citizen participation will be

increased – both to participate in the planning process,

as well as to monitor the service delivery.

TARGET GROUP:

The project will directly support 18 municipalities (phase

I), 12 ministries at the entity and cantonal levels, 2

professional thematic networks, 360 leaders and staff

of local governments, 120 officials of institutions at

cantonal and entity levels, 108 managers and staff of

municipal utilities.

COSTS:

CHF 12'000'000 (phase I)

DURATION:

01.07.2014 – 31.05.2020 (phase I)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND CONTACT DETAILS

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