

PROJECT FACTSHEET

Bosnia and Herzegovina January, 2017

MAINSTREAMING THE CONCEPT OF MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT INTO THE RELEVANT POLICIES AND PLANS – DIASPORA FOR DEVELOPMENT



Migration & development is a new intervention field that aims to develop positive migration potentials in relevant fields of transition, mainly for socio-economic development. Around two million citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) reside outside the country. They do not only help their families to cover living costs, but are also willing, and have the potential, to contribute to the development of their homeland. Through this project, the Government of Switzerland is supporting BiH to create an enabling environment for the inclusion of the human and financial capital of the diaspora – investments, transfer of know-how and ideas, and social and cultural networking. The Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina (MHRR), the Swiss Government and the United Nations Development Programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNDP BiH) implemented a pilot project for policy development and mainstreaming the concept of migration and development into development plans.

RESULTS ACHIEVED SO FAR:

- Policies and measures for an effective integration of diaspora contributions to the development of the country were included in ten local and six cantonal development strategies; concrete interventions were implemented in partnership with the diaspora, which resulted in the creation of 70 jobs and income generation for 470 households in the farming sector.
- Strengthened capacities of key actors at all government levels (MHRR, partner municipalities and inter-institutional working groups) for the mainstreaming of migration and development.
- 10 municipalities institutionalized cooperation with the diaspora and their organizations and adopted a more structured approach in communication through the appointment of focal points, and the opening of the first Diaspora Office.

The second phase aims to increase socio-economic opportunities and perspectives for women and men in BiH, and to improve their livelihoods through increased diaspora engagement.

EXPECTED RESULTS:

- A well-developed diaspora strategy; strengthened capacities of state-level and entity institutions, including the appointment of focal points in charge of diaspora cooperation;
- Diaspora mapping in ten countries with a large number of citizens originating from BiH will enable the development of adequate policies and improved communication, as well as better cooperation with the diplomatic and consular missions of Bosnia and Herzegovina in these countries;
- The Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of BiH will establish representative diaspora bodies that will represent diaspora's interest in policy dialogue with relevant BiH institutions.
- Fifteen municipalities will create models for improved communication with the diaspora for the purpose of mobilizing its expertise and invest-

ments, and the provision of better services to the diaspora;

- Economic development will be stimulated by including various institutions and organizations (know-how hubs, business incubators, start-up companies, development banks) and programmes that will facilitate: (i) the transfer of know-how and development of market-oriented skills, (ii) an increase in investments, and (iii) the promotion and expansion of exports.

The presented study clearly showed that the BiH diaspora, although still very heterogeneous, is well-integrated into Swiss society. It further showed that there are real opportunities for cooperation in the areas of economy and culture, as well as in the domain of education, i.e. the transfer of know-how and experiences. Conference participants critically analysed and stressed the validity of study findings and emphasized the need to establish an "umbrella organization" or a "platform" of BiH diaspora in Switzerland, which would be self-sustaining over the long term, and able to offer specific facilities and services to stimulate the development of the economy and entrepreneurship, social inclusion and culture, education, and the transfer of know-how in BiH.

The i-platform has been launched in November 2016.

Goals

- The established heterogeneous platform will connect the BiH diaspora in Switzerland and strengthen the diaspora's potential for long-term contributions to the economic, social, cultural and democratic development of BiH.
- The i-platform will be a place for establishing contacts, gaining information and enabling networking.

One of its key elements will also be close cooperation with institutions, organizations, associations and individuals at all administrative levels in BiH in the aforementioned fields.



THE PLATFORM OF THE BOSNIAN-HERZEGOVINIAN DIASPORA IN SWITZERLAND

Looking for a possible answer how the potential of Bosnian-Herzegovinian diaspora around the world can be more actively involved in the development of BiH, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH proposed to the government of Switzerland in 2011, in the framework of the bilateral Migration partnership, to realize a mapping of the BiH diaspora. The aim was better understanding of the potential for inclusion of the BiH diaspora living in Switzerland in the development of BiH, based on real statistical and empirical data.

The results of the study were presented in Switzerland in 2014, during the first conference of the BiH diaspora, under the title "How Can the Bosnian-Herzegovinian Diaspora Contribute to the Development of Bosnia and Herzegovina?". The initiator of this all-day event was the Swiss Government and its line ministries, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM). More than 65 representatives of BiH associations, organizations and individuals attended the conference.

PROJECT SUMMARY

NAME:

Mainstreaming the concept of migration and development into the relevant policies and plans – Diaspora for development

TOPIC:

Migration & development

COUNTRY/REGION:

Bosnia and Herzegovina

PARTNERS:

Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Emigration Department
United Nations Development Programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNDP BiH)
International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
The municipalities of Jajce, Ključ, Laktaši, Ljubuški, Maglaj, Nevesinje, Posušje, Prijedor, Velika Kladuša, Sanski Most, and additional five municipalities in the next 4-years period
Budget: 5'760'000

DURATION:

2013 – 2020

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND CONTACT DETAILS

Diaspora for the Development of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Pavillonweg 3
CH - 3012 Bern
Phone No. +41 (0)44 461 11 59
E-mail: info@i-platform.ch
<http://www.i-platform.ch/bhs/saradnja>

Embassy of Switzerland in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Zmaja od Bosne 11, RBBH Building, object B
BiH-71000 Sarajevo
Tel. +387 33 27 58 50, +387 33 25 40 30
Fax +387 33 57 01 20
E-Mail: sar.vertretung@eda.admin.ch
www.eda.admin.ch/bosnia-and-herzegovina