



USAID
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SUCCESS STORY

No Welfare Dependency - Contributing to Society as Employed Young People

Youth organization “Democratic Youth Organization” Velika Kladuša



Project title: Youth and the Community
– You Have the Right to Know!

Project duration: 12 months

Project value: 23,354 BAM

Implementation locations: Una-Sana
Canton, municipalities: Velika Kladuša,
Cazin, Bosanska Krupa

Project summary: The project aims to reduce the incidence of human trafficking in three local communities in the Una-Sana Canton through active prevention measures, with direct contact with potential victims of human trafficking and in cooperation with all stakeholders

I don't have parents, a job, a warm home... Do I have a future? Do I deserve a dignified life? Is that too much to ask?

These are the questions asked by Aldijana, by Salmir, by all the children without parental care, living in children's homes and various institutions scattered across Bosnia and Herzegovina, their country that is not required to take care of them after they turn 18. Until then, they can stay in institutions that accommodate around 2000 children in BiH, but after that, more often than not, they have nowhere to go.

Children without parental care belong to one of the most vulnerable marginalized groups in BiH, and as such deserve special care and attention. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, there are between 2500 and 4000 children without parental care, half of which were left without both parents. The government and the society must care for them, because they have no one else to turn to. These children are forgotten by the society and the media, and in many cases they are even stigmatized by those around them.

Youth organization “Democratic Youth Organization” from Velika Kladuša and USAID's Marginalized Populations Support Activity (PPMG/USAID) decided to show that these youth deserve a bright future and a chance to become equal members of the society – by finding them jobs.

The Democratic Youth Organization started by initiating cooperation with institutions responsible for providing care for this population group, and then took concrete steps.

Through their Initiative for supporting the employment of youth without parental care in the Una-Sana Canton, they signed a Cooperation Agreement with the Employment Service of Una-Sana Canton and the Social-pedagogical living community Bihać, which allowed them to provide jobs for five young people without parental care.

The Democratic Youth Organization showed that with empathy, enthusiasm, and a proactive attitude, the society can provide persons without parental care with a much better quality of life, and that youth can contribute to the development of the society in BiH.

“I will try to justify the trust that has been placed in me”, said the newly employed youth. And they most certainly will!