Since North Macedonia's independence in 1991, the United States has supported the country's goal to:

## Become a prosperous, stable, and inclusive democracy whose future is firmly embedded in Euro-Atlantic institutions

Under the 2020-2025 North Macedonia Country Development Cooperation Strategy, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is fully committed to continue supporting the country to achieve this goal as our newest NATO ally.

Our new strategy emphasizes country ownership, leadership, and investment. USAID will partner with local stakeholders leading and financing the country's sustainable well-being.

Through this strategy, we also aim to move from a traditional donor-recipient relationship to new partnerships featuring USAID co-investments alongside local resources to advance country ownership of development—what we call resource partnerships. USAID's role will be catalytic in forging country-led partnerships among the private sector, government, and civil society.

Because U.S. strategic goals for this country align with those of its citizenry and the government, under this new strategy USAID will play a pivotal role in tackling the following key national priorities\*:

## **Greater economic growth through improved competitiveness**

Promoting growth in productivity, reducing barriers to expansion into Euro-Atlantic markets, and advancing energy security.

## Increased youth engagement to lower unemployment and exclusion

Fostering economic opportunities attractive to youth, strengthening their job competencies, and empowering youth to take an active role in the country's development.

Reduced corruption that is eroding faith in public institutions and the culture of accountability — Supporting the critical need for accountability of government institutions and of citizens to increase their actions to counter corruption.

\*USAID will continue to follow COVID-19 developments to see where adjustments to the strategy could address pandemic preparedness, response, and impact mitigation.

