

Social Impact Investments in Communities

Goals

Increase private sector investments in projects with broad social impact.

Establish cross-sector partnerships for locally led development.

Duration

June 2021–June 2025

Total Funding

\$1,420,368

Implementing Partners

Albiz Foundation in collaboration with Dauti Commerce and Omnium Training and Coaching

Key Counterparts

Civil society organizations
Economic Chambers
Youth Councils
Local government of Brvenica
Local government of Saraj
Local government of Tearce
Local government of Zhelino

Contact

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CHALLENGES

Citizens and local businesses are not typically engaged in actions to address local priority issues in their communities. This is due to poor communication between citizens and local authorities, insufficient understanding of the role businesses can play in community development, limited municipal finances, and lack of public-private collaboration. Weak linkages among civil society, the private sector, and local governments also present a challenge.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

This activity is part of USAID North Macedonia's Local Works initiative that empowers local actors in taking the lead to identify and address development challenges in their own communities. Special focus is placed on capacity building of local stakeholders to plan and realize local development projects.

To support cross-sectoral collaboration, the activity helps establish public-private-civil sector platforms and local development councils in target municipalities. Further, the activity helps businesses become recognizable drivers of locally led development, bringing together multiple stakeholders to jointly generate ideas, develop projects, and mobilize resources to implement them. In doing so, the activity improves existing models of corporate social responsibility to establish effective, sustainable mechanisms for addressing community issues.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Improved economic security and growth.
- Improved local governments' responsiveness and accountability to citizens.
- Increased youth engagement in social and economic opportunities.
- Increased private sector investments that result in positive social impact
- Improved living standards for all citizens in four participating municipalities in the northwest of the country.

KEY RESULTS



Citizen Engagement

More than 240 participants from local communities, businesses, civil society organizations, and municipal authorities, including religious leaders and women and youth organizations, participated in almost 70 gatherings to encourage developing and implementing future social investment projects that will benefit all residents, private sector, and local self-governments in the four target municipalities. Further meetings of diverse citizens, including those living in rural areas, women, and youth, prompted discussions on community challenges, resulting in ideas for local development projects.

Private Sector Outreach



More than 2,020 local economic operators in the four municipalities were identified and invited to meetings to raise interest in supporting community actions and investing in locally led development.

Capacity Building

Grassroots development leaders participated in two project writing trainings (14 participants), three cross sector cooperation trainings (47 participants) and four one-day seminars of public speaking (53 participants).

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Local Youth Clubs and **local Development Councils** were established in each targeted municipality for discussing local **priority issues** and devising ways to **address** them.

Locally led actions based on grassroots development resulted in:

- Two primary school renovations
- An inclusive school playground and sensory room for children with special needs
- A village water supply network and asphalted streets
- \$14,700 mobilized to fund a park with 30 newly planted trees
- Renovation and installation of an elementary school heat system
- Renovation and refurbishment of youth clubs

