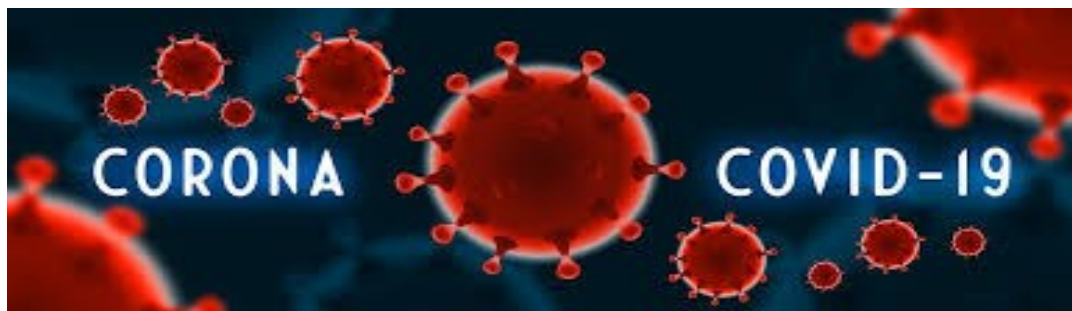


# Swiss support in mitigating COVID-19 consequences in Bosnia and Herzegovina

January 12, 2021



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra



The COVID-19 pandemic reached Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) on 5 March 2020, with the first confirmed cases identified in Banja Luka. COVID-19 presents not only a health crisis, but a socio-economic one, hitting the poor and other vulnerable groups (such as minorities, migrants, the elderly and children) hardest. The final impact will depend very much on the duration of the crisis and the measures taken to combat the negative consequences.

Daily report on the epidemiological situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina available at [www.mcp.gov.ba](http://www.mcp.gov.ba)

## Switzerland's response

Having been engaged in the health sector in BiH for the past 20 years, the Swiss Embassy immediately stepped up to support its long-term partners, primarily those organisations which work directly with health care facilities and health care professionals. Contingency plans have been put in place also for all other existing projects in the fields of economy and employment as well as local governance to take into account new challenges. Interventions will be adapted as necessary. Switzerland will continue to address the specific needs of migrants including those related to COVID-19 through its ongoing partnership with the Danish Refugee Council as well as through Caritas Switzerland.

## Response to the needs of local authorities

At the request of BiH health authorities, the Swiss Embassy (via UNDP) financed the urgent procurement of respirators, COVID-19 diagnostic tests and protective gear for hospitals throughout the country. The Federal Public Health Institute was equipped with teleconferencing infrastructure thereby improving its communication with cantonal Health Institutes and Ministries. In addition, the Armed Forces of BiH were equipped with protective equipment and resources for carrying out the mission of "Assistance to the civilian population in BiH".

## Response to the needs of citizens

- Financial support is being provided to Caritas Switzerland, the Roma Women Association "Bolja budućnost" and the Association "Zemlja djece u BiH" to ensure basic food items for the poor and other vulnerable persons (this comprises assistance for 2.300 households, or about 7.400 individuals).
- Top-up funding is being provided to the Mental Health Project (implemented by the Association XY) for online psychological support of patients with mental health problems and for the purchase of basic protective equipment for medical personnel. Within the Strengthening Nursing Project, 278 community nurses in 16 municipalities were equipped with protective gears and participated in an online training on topics relevant to COVID-19.
- 200 households in Kotor Varoš, Maglaj, Jablanica and Pale have received through the Catholic Relief Services vegetables seeds, organic manure, plant protection items as well as guidance, allowing them to meet their immediate food needs.

## Individuals affected:

The entire population; in particular the poor and other vulnerable groups.

Organisations	Amount in CHF	Amount in BAM
Danish Refugee Council	1'495'500	2'715'070
CARITAS	339'000	614,910
UNDP	195'000	360,000
Association XY	60'000	110,000
Catholic Relief Services	31'800	59'000
Armed Forces of BiH	27'420	49'500
Vive Žene	22'100	40'000
Association Budućnost	15'670	28'500
Center of Women's Rights	10'000	18'000
Association Novi Put	14'380	26'080
Federal Public Health Institute	8'100	15'000
Association Bolja budućnost	8'100	15'000
Zemlja djece u BiH	8'100	15'000
BHAAAS	4'350	7'900
<b>Total</b>	<b>2'239'520</b>	<b>4'073'960</b>

- A financial contribution is being provided to the associations "Vive Žene", "Center of Women's Rights", "Novi Put" and "Budućnost" for the support to victims of gender based violence.
- Funding was provided to the Bosnian-Herzegovinian American Academy of Arts and Sciences (BHAAAS) for activities aimed at combatting COVID-19 disinformation.

### **Response to the needs of the economy**

As part of their ongoing interventions Swiss project partners are elaborating interventions aimed at the post-pandemic economic recovery. Priorities include the following: preserving jobs, securing the livelihoods of people, and identifying new economic opportunities.

**Switzerland has made so far more than CHF 2.2 million available to respond quickly to the pressing needs caused by COVID-19 in BiH.**

### **For further information:**

Embassy of Switzerland in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Tel. +387 33 275 850

[sarajjevo@eda.admin.ch](mailto:sarajjevo@eda.admin.ch)