

PROJECT INFO

United Nations Development Programme

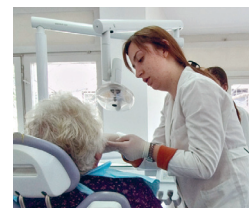


Photo by: Andrej Ginovski

CHALLENGE

In 2011, the general unemployment rate in the country reached 31.2%. The reason for such a high unemployment is multiple: the country entered transition with a 15.4% unemployment rate, traditional markets were lost when shifting towards a free market economy, the transformation process did not generate adequate new employments and the privatization process did not attract the anticipated investments. Statistics show that the highest rates of unemployment exist among people with low education, women and youth. In response to such an unfavorable situation, the Macedonian Government has undertaken actions over the past years to reduce unemployment through the design and implementation of comprehensive employment programmes, including active labor market measures (ALMMs).

As a longtime partner to the Government on social inclusion and poverty reduction, UNDP supported the design and implementation of various employment programmes, including several of the ALMMs, such as self-employment, training in skills deficient on the labour market, formalization of informal businesses, support to small businesses with subsidized employment and labour mobility.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

The programme focuses on a series of measures such as:

- self-employment
- training of unemployed in skills that are deficient on the labour market
- support to the growth of small and medium size enterprises with subsidized employment
- training to sustainable self-employment
- training to subsidized employment
- community works for vulnerable groups

and concrete activities, such as:

- training in entrepreneurship skills for developing business ideas/plans,
- support in business registration,
- provision of start-up grants in a form of equipment and/or materials
- provision of subsidized wages for employees.
- employment on a part-time basis of unemployed who face difficulties to enter into the labor market.

RESULTS

Since its start in 2007, this programme has enabled over 4000 people to open their own businesses or to find a secure job.

Over US\$18 million have been invested in job creation, 95% of which is funded by the Government. The programme had positive effects on the national economy through increased taxation from new businesses.

Through work at the policy level and with entrepreneurs, the interventions allowed informal businesses to move into the formal sector and function as legal entities, contributing to the reduction of grey economy. A common thread of the UNDP employment generation efforts is its particular focus on disadvantaged social groups, the Roma people and the victims of domestic violence.

To date, more than 4000 long term unemployed started their own business and 56 women victims of domestic violence now became economically independent. The possibility to reach more vulnerable people is now there, as targeting vulnerable groups has also become a central element of the Government's approach to developing and implementing employment programmes.

PROJECT TITLE:

Promoting Sustainable Employments and Technical Assistance to Support the Government's Active Labour Market Measures

PARTNERS: Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Employment Service Agency with its 30 employment centers, Ministry of Education and Science, Centre for Vocational Education and Training, Agency for Promotion of Entrepreneurship and other relevant institutions, Adult Education Centre.

FINANCED BY: Government and UNDP

BUDGET: US\$ 22,574,234.33

IMPLEMENTING PERIOD: March 2007 – March 2013

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Vesna Dzuteska Bisheva
 Head of Social Inclusion and Strategic Initiatives Unit
 Tel/Fax: +389 2 3249530; +3893249505
 Email: vesna.bisheva@undp.org
 Web site: www.undp.org.mk