



MODULE 2

Strengthening pro-poor markets for health and enhancing the role of local businesses

Project summary

Improving the integrity of processes of establishing medicine lists, Bosnia and Herzegovina

The health sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina has large accumulated debts jeopardizing access to and the quality of health services. Key problems are an **inadequate allocation of resources** and **deficiencies in the governance** of the system.

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is the only European country **without an essential medicine list for the whole country**. There are currently 13 lists of recommended medicines in the country. The process of creating essential medicine lists is not transparent enough, so it is difficult to assess the efficiency of the process, the adequacy of public funds allocation, the expertise and integrity of actors involved. Furthermore, a significant part of these processes remains in the shadows so that the civil sector and professional community have no insight and nor possibility to review critically the processes and seek for information.

Better legally regulated and more transparent systems of establishing medicine lists in the country would improve access to medicines, patient participation and equity. In order to contribute to alleviating this situation, the Swiss Embassy in BiH has partnered with Roche Ltd., the Association of Innovative Medicine Producers in BiH and Net Consulting. This **engagement with the private sector** pools the resources and skills of the involved partners with the aim of improving the transparency and integrity of processes of establishing lists of medicines financed by the public health budgets in BiH.

This project started in September 2020. Therefore, very limited results can be shared so far. The overall objectives of the intervention focus on:

1. The health authorities achieve high standards of integrity in conducting credible and transparent processes of establishing lists of medicines used in the provision of healthcare.
2. Patients are aware of their rights, demand accountability of the health authorities and participate in the monitoring of processes in the establishment of medicine lists.

Key Project Partners: Two entity level Ministries of Health, 13 Commissions for Medicines in BiH, entity and cantonal Health Insurance Funds, BiH Agency for Public Procurement, chambers and professional association of physicians and pharmacists, associations of patients