



Country Snapshot

Quick Facts

Year Active

Late 1990s

Projects

PRAGG 2022–ongoing; UTPS
2021–2025; RECONOMY
2020–ongoing; Moja Budućnost
2018–2022.; MarketMakers
2012–2023;

Beneficiaries

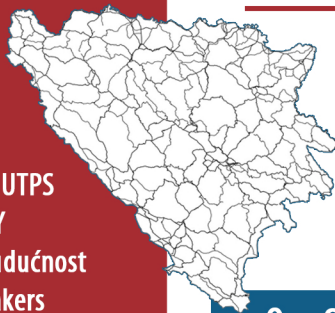
More than 1,000 people reached
per year, with special focus on
youth and the socially excluded.

Main Clients

SDC, Sida, SECO, Medicor and
Hilti Foundations
(Liechtenstein)

Sectors

Good governance & civic space;
vocational education & youth
employment; private sector
development; urban planning &
climate resilience;
gender/equality & social
inclusion.



Helvetas has worked in Bosnia and Herzegovina since the late 1990s for over 25 years, partnering with local authorities and communities to build inclusive governance, economic opportunities and climate resilience, and has ran municipal service and local development projects.

Why Bosnia and Herzegovina – Why Helvetas

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is a post-conflict democracy facing deep challenges: a fragmented political system, chronic youth unemployment and out-migration, and unequal access to opportunities for women and marginalized groups. Sustainable jobs, transparent institutions and climate-resilient development are vital for the country's future. Helvetas brings over three decades of hands-on experience in BiH, linking local priorities with global expertise to deliver tangible, lasting results.

Our Strategic Focus

1. **Good Governance & Civic Participation:** Strengthening municipal performance, transparency and accountability; empowering citizens and CSOs to engage in decision-making and demand reforms.
2. **Economic Perspectives & Youth Employment:** Expanding vocational training, entrepreneurship and job-matching for young people and women; fostering private-sector partnerships to create market-driven livelihoods.
3. **Green Transition & Urban Resilience:** Supporting climate-smart agriculture, renewable energy adoption and integrated urban planning.
4. Across all areas of engagement, **Helvetas acts as a knowledge broker**, connecting stakeholders to exchange expertise, research, and best practices to enhance project effectiveness and foster innovation.

Proven Results

- *Strengthened civic engagement:* The PRAGG Proactive Citizens project has mobilized hundreds of citizens and CSOs (especially youth, women and vulnerable groups) to participate in policy dialogue and local governance, ensuring under represented voices shape reforms.
- *Modern urban planning tools:* Under the Urban Transformation Sarajevo (UTPS) project, Helvetas supported Sarajevo Canton to adopt an integrated digital decision-making platform for sustainable, climate-resilient city planning.
- *Over 3,500 youth jobs were created through Helvetas market-driven interventions.* The MarketMakers project generated about 1,500 new employment opportunities for young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- *The Moja Budućnost project empowered 1,440 youth and young adults with improved vocational and business skills.*
- *More than 15,000 women and young people were engaged, with nearly 8,000 people gaining improved skills, and more than 1,200 individuals employed in BiH due to RECONOMY-supported initiatives.*

Contact

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 Helvetas Bosnia and Herzegovina

Trusted Partnerships

We work in close collaboration with:

- **Funding partners:** SDC, Sida, SECO, Medicor and Hilti Foundations (Liechtenstein), and private foundations are core donors
- **Institutional partners:** Entity/cantonal ministries (e.g. Education, Economy, Human Rights), state level ministry of justice, employment agencies, local government associations, sector authorities
- **Local stakeholders:** Municipalities, civil society organizations, private sector actors.
- **Regional initiatives:** Through RECONOMY, Helvetas engages with market actors, governments, and civil society across the Western Balkans to bring regional solutions and investments to BiH.