



USAID
OD AMERIČKOG NARODA

Young professor leaves Dubai for Teslić: I want to live my dream in BiH!

“Fond za podršku u razvoju biznisa marginaliziranim grupama žena”



Project title: Fond za podršku u razvoju biznisa marginaliziranih grupa žena

Project duration: 1. 10. 2016. - 28. 10. 2017.

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Project implemented in: Zvornik, Livno, Kalinovik, Visoko, Rudo, Tešanj, Teslić, Konjic i Prijedor

Project summary: Cooperation between USAID/PPMG and its partners – local self-government units – fosters an environment conducive to establishing and improving institutional mechanisms for supporting businesses owned by marginalized women.

Sanela Mauzer is a thirty year old woman who decided to live her dream in Bosnia and Herzegovina and her hometown Teslić. Sanela, like many of her peers, couldn't find a job after getting her degree. What little work she could find was uncertain and very short, which eventually made her leave the country. Like many before and after her, she packed her bags and decided to try her luck in Dubai. She lived and worked in that promising city for two years, never giving up on her hometown and her dream. Finally, she came back. Sanela came back, but there was no job waiting for her. Sanela wasn't going to wait either. She looked for opportunities and took her future into her own hands. English is her passion – one that she decided to share with the youngest citizens of Teslić by opening a private kindergarten.

She had the will and the idea, but she couldn't do it alone. She needed support and got it from USAID's Fund for supporting businesses owned by marginalized women and the Municipality of Teslić. Sanela got support, and Teslić got a kindergarten using innovative teaching concepts.

In Sanela's kindergarten, children learn through workshops and playing. What makes her happiest is when parents tell her that their children are thriving thanks to her. She got her chance, and wants others to have a chance too. This young English Language and Literature teacher says that youth don't have easy access to non-formal education in Teslić, which they need just as much as English. Sanela decided to earn a living and build a future for herself by teaching Teslić's little ones English. It's her gift to Teslić, a small town with a big heart, as she is fond of saying.

Sanela is proudest of the fact that her success is her own doing. It wasn't just thanks to her parents, it was her own hard work that helped her achieve her goal, which is something that most youth in this country lack, says Sanela.

“A lot of young people don't have a goal, but those that do lack support. I wouldn't have succeeded without this support. The Fund for supporting businesses owned by marginalized women, supported by local communities is a great model for improving the situation in BiH. This is obvious when you look at my business, and the businesses of other women they supported.” – says Sanela, whose business provided an income for her and three other young women from Teslić. The Little Prince kindergarten is now an oasis of happiness and knowledge. While they're away from their parents, little ones spend their time cooking, taking walks, learning English and playing, under the supervision of qualified pre-school teachers. Sanela didn't give up on Teslić, and the town thanked her by believing in her work and supporting her business.

She is holding on tight to her dream, and has a lot of new ideas for making her business even better for her little customers. She believes that women can achieve more in our society, they just need more confidence and a clear goal.

Sanela is one of a hundred women who were supported by USAID's Marginalized Populations Support Activity and nine local units of self-government. These businesses provide them with a livelihood, independence and restore their faith in a better future.