

# 4<sup>th</sup> Interim Meeting of the Regional Expert Advisory Working Group (REAWG) on LEADER

## “Standing up for LEADER”

### National Road Map Republic of Srpska, BIH

14 October 2020  
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Supported by:

# Impact of COVID-19



- State of natural or other disaster from 17.03.20. on territory of BiH.
- State of emergency in Republic of Srpska (RS) from 16.03.20. until 20.05.20.
- The period of state of emergency is characterized by ban on entry and exit of foreign and domestic citizens in and out of BiH and prohibitions and restrictions on movement and assembly with the country.
- Number of total infected in RS: 10.590 people (13.10.20.);
- Number of total recovered in RS: 7.123 people (13.10.20.);
- Number of deaths in RS: 325 people (13.10.20.);
- Number of currently infected in RS: 3.142 people (13.10.20.).



# Impact of COVID-19 on Agriculture and Food Policy



- Increased funding for existing agricultural incentives;
- Accelerated the payment of approved incentives;
- Paid off most of the previous debts;
- Increased initial funding for capital investment subsidies;
- Distribution sowing packages of inputs for vegetable and soybeans (100/50% grants);
- Moratorium on loan repayment approved by banks and MCOs;
- Guarantees for bank loans up to 70%;
- Agreement with processors on priority purchase of domestic agricultural products;
- Intervention purchase of cattle, pigs and vegetables;
- Starting with internet platforms for sale of food.



# Impact of COVID-19 on Rural communities

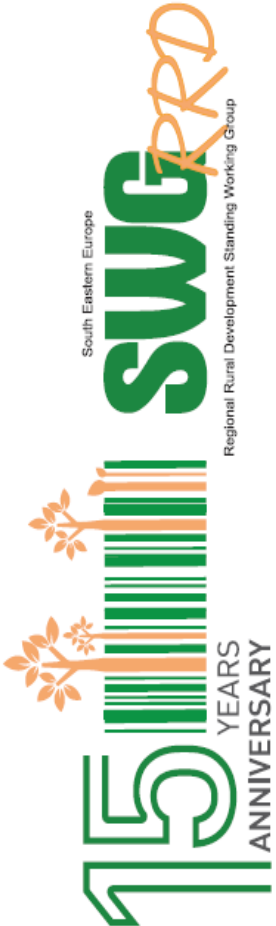


- Problems of elderly in the villages with the supply of food, medicine, hygiene and other products.
- Suspension of public transport, difficulties in access to health and some other public services for rural population.
- Comeback of (rural) migrants from abroad.
- Extra labor due to interruption of work elsewhere during pandemic.
- Greater use of ITC and digital tools forced by the pandemic.
- Agriculture, as a key economic activity in rural areas, survived without major consequences due to the pandemic.

# Road map



Processes	Action	Responsible actor and other contributing actors	Output	Date	Comment
1.1. Drafting of the legislative framework at the level of RS for positioning of the LEADER approach, accreditation of LAGs and the role of LAGs in rural development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creation of Law on Agriculture and rural development of RS that recognize LEADER</li> <li>- Creation of Rulebook on accreditation of LAGs</li> <li>- Inclusion of measures for LEADER in Rulebook/Law on Financial Incentives of RS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MAFWMRS, LAGs representatives and other participants outside the Ministry competent to draft legislation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Law on Agriculture and rural development of RS</li> <li>- Rulebook on accreditation of LAGs in RS</li> <li>- Rulebook/Law on Financial Incentives for LAGs of RS</li> </ul>	2020-2021	An important precondition for the recognition of LAGs and future operation of LAGs
1.2. Drafting of the Strategy (2021-2027) with a defined position of LEADER and LAGs in RS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inclusion of measures for LEADER and LAGs in Strategy for development of agriculture and rural areas</li> <li>- Creation of implementing procedures for LEADER</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MAFWMRS and other participants outside the Ministry competent to contribute</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strategic document with defined measures that support the work of LAGs</li> </ul>	2020-2021	LEADER approach and LAGs have bin part of previous strategies, but there is no bylaws that support implementation of measures
1.3. Strengthening institutional capacities of LAGs in the RS through various forms of education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Capacity building of decision makers and staff from public authorities</li> <li>- Capacity building of LAGs, LAG initiatives and their networks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MAFWMRS, Other Ministries of RS</li> <li>- International organizations and donors</li> <li>- NGOs and regional development agencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Educated staff with the necessary management skills in the field of LEADER</li> </ul>	2021-2027	Many decision makers and other actors are not familiar with LEADER approach and LAGs functioning



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1.4. Regular funding of LAGs through MAFWMRS and local communities budget transfers	- Entity and local budgets plan sources for LEADER implementation	- MAFWMRS - Local communities	- Budget transfers for the work of LAGs in RS	2021-2027	Without regular funding, LAGs are nothing but another development CSO
1.5. Preparation and fulfilment of conditions for possible withdrawal of funds from the IPA III program	- Decision makers at national, entity and cantonal level should find compromise and organize management structure for IPA III program	- MoFTER - MAFWMRS	- Sustainable financing of LEADER measures and the work of LAGs in RS	2021-2027	This is political circumstance that blocked withdrawal of funds in the past
1.6. Preparation for the use of the EU4Agri program	- EU4Agri program supports with different actions to agricultural and rural development	- UNDP, CzDA and other international organizations	- Financing of LEADER measures and the work of LAGs in RS	2021-2027	EU have created different program EU4Agri for BiH to make possible to use IPA funds through it



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2.1. Capacity building of LAGs and LAG initiatives to organize rural development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trainings for staff involved in LAGs and LAG initiatives</li> <li>- Providing logistic support to newly established LAGs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MAFWMRS</li> <li>- Local communities</li> </ul>	- Educated LAGs staff for administration and implementation of projects	2021-2027	LAGs and LAG initiatives are limited with capacities and need support to build them
2.2. Animation of rural stakeholders to take active role in rural development and LEADER approach implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Integration of local actors in activities of LAG</li> <li>- Active approach in animating inhabitants from LAG area in preparation and implementation of projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MAFWMRS</li> <li>- Local communities</li> <li>- LAGs</li> </ul>	- Educated stakeholders from rural areas to prepare and implement projects	2021-2027	Rural stakeholders are frequently not interested to be generator of change, that is why they need animation to be active
2.3. Networking at different levels within BiH and outside BiH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Joining of LAGs and LAG initiatives to Network for rural development of BiH</li> <li>- Cooperation between LAGs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Network for rural development of BiH</li> <li>- LAGs</li> </ul>	- Local, regional, national and international connections created	2021-2027	New networks open opportunities for future collaborations



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<b>2.4. Strengthening the rural development network</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trainings for staff and members of RDN of BiH</li> <li>- Providing funding for activities of RDN of BiH</li> <li>- Organization of training for LAG members from RDN</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Network for rural development of BiH</li> <li>- MAFWMRS</li> <li>- Local communities</li> <li>- Actual and new LAGs</li> <li>- Network of organization involved in rural development issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More efficient work of LAGs</li> <li>- More projects</li> </ul>	2021-2027	Rural Development Network in BiH is Civil Society Organizations network that needs support to implement more capacity building activities with different stakeholders
<b>2.5. Analyzing the potentials for future networking in rural development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sectors of rural economy are analyzed and potentials explored</li> <li>- Possible investment projects suggested at LAG territory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Network for rural development of BiH</li> <li>- LAGs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More sectors involved</li> <li>- More inhabitants targeted</li> </ul>	2021-2027	There are various unused potentials in rural areas that could be put in function





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Processes	Action	Responsible actor and other contributing actors	Output	Date	Comment
3.1. Comprehensive analysis of the current state of the LEADER approach in RS	- Creation of Study on the state of LEADER and LAGs in RS	- MAFWMRS - Academia - LAGs	- Study on the state of LEADER and LAGs in RS with recommendations for their improvement	2020 - 2021	There is need to do comprehensive analysis of the LEADER approach in RS
3.2. Raising awareness of the importance of LEADER and the work of LAGs	- Workshops organized for rural stakeholders in order to increase their interest for LEADER and LAGs	- LAGs - Academia - Local community	- Greater interest of rural stakeholders in LEADER and the work of LAGs	2021 - 2027	Popularization of LEADER approach can be done through promotion of its core values and principles



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Processes	Action	Responsible actor and other contributing actors	Output	Date	Comment
3.3. Involvement of LAGs in realization of development goals	- Animating local actors and strengthening the capacity of LAGs	- Rural Development Network - LAGs - Academia - Local community	- Animated local rural actors and the establishment of new successful LAGs	2021 - 2025	LAGs should animate population from their rural area to integrate their opinions in LDS and activities
3.4. Increased use of bottom up approach	- Drafting of local development strategies	- MAFWMRS - LAGs - Academy	- LDS	2021 - 2027	LDS are needed in order to plan future development
3.5. Strengthening role of the LAGs in priority areas	- Defining the scope of new LAGs	- MAFWMRS - Rural Development Network	- Defined new areas of activity for the establishment of new LAGs in RS	2021 - 2027	LAGs should tackle priority areas of rural development with bottom up approach



**Thank you for your attention!**

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