



**USAID**  
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**SERBIA**

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **USAID CELEBRATES A DECADE OF PARTNERSHIP WITH SERBIA AND A HALF CENTURY OF ASSISTANCE WORLDWIDE**

**NIS (March 20, 2012)** – The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) today celebrated a decade of development efforts in Serbia and a half century of service worldwide with a reception at the Gallery of Contemporary Arts.

“During the past decade, USAID has been working in partnership with Serbians to strengthen the economy, streamline Serbia’s courts and government offices, and revitalize its communities,” said U.S. Ambassador Mary Burce Warlick, speaking to a crowd of government officials, business owners, USAID beneficiaries, and non-governmental organization leaders. Two representatives from Washington, USAID’s Assistant Administrator for Europe and Eurasia Paige Alexander and the Department of State’s Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia Daniel Rosenblum, also attended the event.

“Over \$660 million of the \$810 million the U.S. Government has invested in programs in Serbia during the past 10 years has been through USAID,” Warlick said. “In addition to encouraging investment, creating jobs, and enabling exports, USAID has empowered Serbia’s media and citizen’s groups, and is ensuring that all its citizens benefit from its democratic society.”

Since 1961, USAID – the U.S. Government’s primary development agency – has been helping countries recover from disaster, escape from poverty, and engage in democratic reforms. The agency was founded by U.S. President John F. Kennedy on November 3, 1961.

“Today’s celebration is more than 10 years in Serbia or USAID’s 50 years helping people all over the world,” said USAID Mission Director Susan K. Fritz. “It’s a celebration of our successful partnerships with the Government of Serbia, non-governmental organizations, businesses, and the Serbian people.”

In Serbia, USAID helped establish Citizen Assistance Centers in 32 municipalities to serve as “one-stop shops” for citizens to quickly obtain construction permits. USAID helped rebuild the banking system, and recently was instrumental in the launch the country’s first municipal bond offering. USAID has advocated for the adoption of laws and policies that have strengthened the judiciary and the government; and it has worked to ensure that women, youth and ethnic minorities are part of Serbia’s political process.

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***Since 2001 USAID has invested more than \$662.5 million in Serbia to stimulate economic growth, strengthen the justice system, and promote good governance. For more information about USAID, visit <http://serbia.usaid.gov>.***