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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 5, 2011

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### **USAID GRANTS “ENHANCED DISASTER RESILIENCE” STATUS TO 10 MUNICIPALITIES**

**BELGRADE (July 8)** – The U.S. Agency for International Development’s Preparedness and Planning Program today certified 10 municipalities as Enhanced Disaster Resilient, acknowledging their upgraded disaster management capabilities.

U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission in Serbia Earle Litzenberger and the Serbian Ministry of Interior’s Assistant Minister for Emergency Management Predrag Maric presented certificates to the mayors or representatives from Kula, Opovo, Novi Knezevac, Vladimirci, Nova Varos, Priboj, Loznica, Bujanovac, Svrlijig and Knjazevac.

“Training through USAID’s Preparedness and Planning Program has helped improve readiness and response to natural and manmade disasters in 120 Serbian municipalities,” Deputy Chief of Mission Litzenberger said at the ceremony at Aeroklub Belgrade. “To date, more than 1,700 first responders have been trained.”

These 10 municipalities join 52 other Serbian communities that have significantly improved their disaster preparedness to respond to landslides, flash floods, fires, and environmental accidents. Their training complements the newly established national disaster management system.

USAID’s six-year, \$20-million Preparedness and Planning Program works with 120 Serbian municipalities to support their efforts to improve disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and prevention. The program assists municipalities to meet domestic legal obligations and international standards in disaster management and response.

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For more information about this event, please contact Sandra Vlatkovic at [sandra\\_vlatkovic@dai.com](mailto:sandra_vlatkovic@dai.com), or Slobodan Perović at [slobodan\\_perovic@dai.com](mailto:slobodan_perovic@dai.com). Both can be reached at 011 363-9900.

For more information about USAID/Serbia’s programs, please visit <http://serbia.usaid.gov>. For additional information about the USAID PPES Program, visit <http://www.scopes-serbia.org>.