

Of the total amount of 4.7 million dollars that the American government allocated to Serbia for the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic, the American Agency for International Development (USAID) provided about 4.3 million dollars.

USAID worked with the World Health Organization (WHO) to deliver medical equipment to Serbia, such as oxygen concentrators, triage containers, patient monitors, personal health care equipment for clinics, and mobile X-ray machines.

USAID also worked with the Red Cross and UNICEF to provide hygiene and food supplies, and even cash for the most vulnerable families in Serbia. During last year's election, the American agency supported the Republic Election Commission in adopting security measures and informing voters how to vote safely.

It also cooperated with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in establishing a communication center at the Institute of Public Health "Milan Jovanovic Batut", procurement of ambulances, as well as communication equipment for centers for the elderly, and also in vaccine waste management. Finally, USAID supported the Institute for the Application of Nuclear Technology to validate antibody tests and find new markets to which it can export tests.

"The United States has stood firmly with our Serbian partners since the crisis began, providing more than 4.7 million dollars in aid against Covid-19, and most of that money came through USAID. In the last 20 years or more, USAID has invested almost 860 million dollars in Serbia. We are looking forward to this crisis passing so that we can focus 100 percent on efforts to further strengthen the economy, on supporting institutions to better serve the citizens and on the overall improvement of conditions for the people in Serbia," Shanley Pinchotti, acting director of USAID Serbia, told Danas.

In cooperation with the WHO, USAID, among other things, assisted in the procurement and delivery of 3,400 pulse oximeters, 200 oxygen concentrators, 6,000 test kits, four triage containers, ie inspection and sampling, 30 monitors and three mobile X-ray machines. With 1.4 million dollars, he helped the activities of UNICEF and the Serbian Red Cross to help endangered families.

This included 10,000 hygiene kits for the poorest families, for those in social institutions, and for refugee and migrant centers. The aforementioned cash aid of a total of 700,000 dollars was mainly placed in households in southern and eastern Serbia, also in support of the UNICEF program.

With 320,000 dollars, USAID helped renovate six heating and sanitary hot water substations in the hospital complex in Pancevo, which was organized as a regional Covid hospital. This included the procurement of appropriate equipment and software to automate the entire operation.

A 1 million dollar grant, in cooperation with UNDP, procured 11 ambulances and communications equipment at nursing homes so they could keep in touch with family and



USAID is helping Serbia to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic challenges

friends during the pandemic.

USAID, together with Rotary clubs in Austin, Texas, and Chuck, will procure laboratory equipment for the polymerase chain reaction for the Institute of Public Health in Cacak, which will improve the diagnosis of Covid-19 and provide community education on the prevention of this disease, Danas reports.