



## NORTH MACEDONIA

United States assistance coordinated by the Office of the Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia (ACE) has boosted efforts in North Macedonia to strengthen rule of law and combat corruption. The United States strongly supported North Macedonia's entry into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and U.S. assistance continues to foster interoperability with the Alliance. U.S. assistance supports North Macedonia's path to Euro-Atlantic integration, including European Union (EU) accession; fosters competent, transparent, and accountable governance; and engages civil society, youth, and the private sector to help shape policy, monitor reforms, and expand the country's economic and democratic successes. U.S. technical assistance is helping to diversify North Macedonia's energy sources, including solar energy in its power generation, and to develop appropriate laws related to open-market access, allowing accelerated deployment of renewable-energy projects. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the government of North Macedonia mounted a prompt and thorough response that is supported by over \$4 million in U.S. funding to mitigate the impact of the pandemic.

**over \$891 million**

USG assistance since 1991

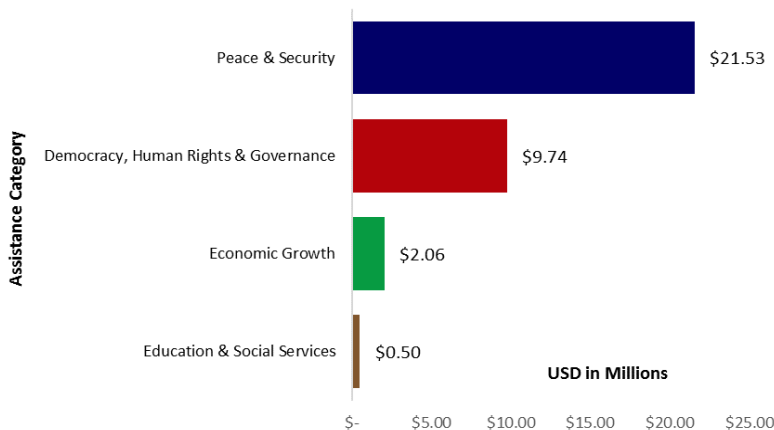
**\$33.8 million**

State/USAID assistance for FY 2020\*

**\$4.2 million**

COVID-19 assistance\*\*

### FY 2020 ACE-Coordinated State/USAID Assistance to North Macedonia by Category\* (\$33.8m)



Source: ACE

\*Does not include centrally managed funds or \$1.5 million in FY 2020 COVID supplemental funds.

\*\*COVID assistance includes reprogrammed, supplemental, and other USG funds.

**NOTE:** The assistance highlights below are examples of results achieved by funding in each category in the chart.



### CIVIL SOCIETY & POLITICAL PROCESSES ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

In FY 2020, U.S. assistance helped civil society organizations (CSOs) reduce corruption, domestic violence, and violations of human rights in North Macedonia. With U.S. support, CSOs conducted 133 on-site court monitoring visits, analyzing the implementation of domestic laws and international fair trial standards, thus promoting citizen's ability to monitor access to justice. The CSO coalition published five policy briefs on corruption and 10 investigative pieces on nepotism and corruption in the judiciary, court inefficiencies, and implementation of the Law on Whistleblowers, which resulted in stronger justice-sector institutions. U.S. assistance helped youth groups combat disinformation, which malign actors exploit to divide the population, and which impedes nation-building. When snap elections were held mid-pandemic in July 2020, U.S. assistance prepared the State Election Commission to carry out safe and transparent elections by training the electoral administration on how to use protective measures at the polling stations, raise awareness among voters to stay safe during the voting process, and ensure the right voting protocols were in place. As a result, there were no new COVID-19 clusters resulting from the election voting.



### LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

U.S. assistance improves the efficiency, transparency, and accountability of law enforcement and judicial institutions. This includes bolstering border security and efforts to control illicit trade. U.S. assistance programs in the areas of rule of law and good governance include efforts to enhance the capacity of the police through the implementation of modern training strategies that reflect international best practices; enhance investigative and prosecutorial effectiveness through the implementation of investigative task forces; and implement effective community engagement activities. Assistance was also provided to reduce corruption and increase transparency through the expansion of a digital document management tool to the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MOIA) and accreditation of the Police Training Center. The Digital Police Management System (DPMS) has been incorporated into the MOIA Archive/Mail Office and the newly established Organized and Serious Crime Department Trafficking in Persons Task Force. Replacing the MOIA's paper-based system by processing reports and intelligence, this DPMS ensure investigations can be properly and efficiently managed.

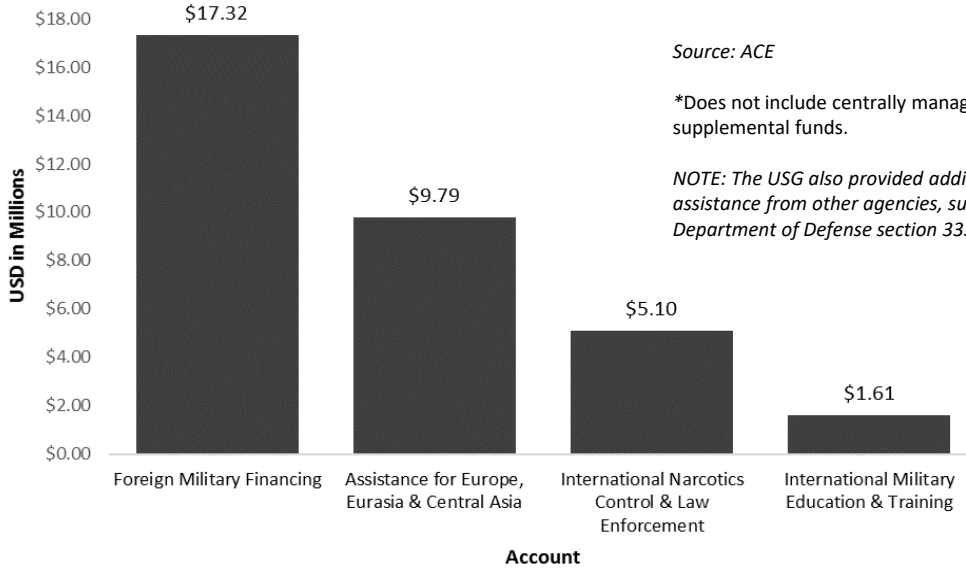


### BUSINESS & INVESTMENT ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

U.S. support promotes public-private dialogue on economic policies and a legal framework conducive to private sector competitiveness and growth in North Macedonia. U.S. assistance facilitates private sector access to finance and business support services, particularly for micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). The United States helped 13 business support organizations (BSOs) and 3,267 MSMEs. Through this support, BSO membership increased by 11,130 members. Further, 56 MSMEs obtained \$42 million in credit from financial institutions and the U.S. leveraged over \$9 million from 10 large companies in the apparel, dairy, and food processing sectors to improve productivity in the supply chain. U.S. loan guarantees facilitated 171 loans to farmers and agribusinesses, valued at over \$2.2 million. Additionally, U.S. programs help preserve cultural assets and improve conditions for tourism. U.S. assistance is reducing barriers to regional and global trade, in part through improved value chain competitiveness in line with EU standards.



### FY 2020 ACE-Coordinated State/USAID Assistance to North Macedonia by Account\* (\$33.8m)



Source: ACE

\*Does not include centrally managed funds or COVID supplemental funds.

NOTE: The USG also provided additional FY 2020 assistance from other agencies, such as \$4 million in Department of Defense section 333 funds.



### ANTI-CORRUPTION, RULE OF LAW & GOOD GOVERNANCE ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

U.S. support focuses on helping North Macedonia implement its 2021-2025 national anti-corruption strategy (developed with U.S. technical assistance), including improved collaboration across institutions. U.S. assistance to strengthen rule of law includes efforts supported by the State Department’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) to enhance judicial independence and prosecute high-profile organized crime and corruption cases. This incorporates best practices such as random judicial selection and videotaped proceedings in criminal court. With INL support, the Chief Public Prosecutor officially established four pilot investigative centers where prosecutors and investigators work side-by-side to try prosecution cases, fulfilling Criminal Procedure Code reforms to institute a more effective, prosecutor-led model of investigation. As part of INL’s anti-corruption efforts, the Justice Department’s International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) donated 46 body-worn cameras (BWCs) to the Tetovo Sector for Internal Affairs Traffic Unit and provided training of trainers for eight traffic police officers there, who in turn trained 103 police officers from Tetovo and Gostivar. The deployment of BWCs has had a positive effect on the behavior of police-public relations during traffic stops as the number of stops diminished and the number of citations increased. In a citizen survey, respondents reported that police exhibited increased professionalism with traffic stops now viewed as more relaxed, routine encounters.



### ENERGY ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

The U.S. supports renewable energy generation and energy efficiency measures in North Macedonia. Programs assist the government to stimulate energy generation through transparent and fair competitive processes, which reduce energy costs for businesses and households. This includes facilitating private sector participation in expanding renewable energy, in part by reducing the number of investment procedures for investment in renewable energy development and shortening the investment timeframe. U.S. assistance contributes to successful government reverse auctions for selecting investors for solar farms on both state- and privately-owned land, improving perceptions of the process and terms offered by the government and allowing for increased economic efficiency for energy costs. As a result, over 80 domestic and international companies submitted bids for photovoltaic plants of 35-megawatt (MW) capacity on state-owned land, and an additional 40 bids were submitted for privately-owned land for 27 MW capacity. The process used to spur the interest of investors drew the large number of bids, advancing prospects for increased economic efficiency for energy costs.



### EDUCATION ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

Youth face several challenges that threaten to fuel disenchantment and outward migration. In partnership with private and public stakeholders, U.S. assistance supports workforce development and vocational education initiatives for diverse groups of youth in North Macedonia. Approaches leverage youth voices, young leaders’ constructive participation in decision-making, and youth capacity for critical thinking and social cohesion. U.S. support strengthens inter-ethnic cohesion, cultivates civic skills and behaviors among youth, and improves teaching and learning conditions in public primary and secondary schools. For example, the United States partners with the Ministry of Education and Science and schools to strengthen inter-ethnic cohesion, cultivate civic skills and behaviors among youth, and improve teaching and learning conditions. Over 50,000 students benefited from the revised civic education curriculum and 119 schools with over 3,000 students integrated activities for enhancing civic ethos. Students of diverse ethnic and linguistic background took part in over 900 joint secondary school classes and over 3,060 primary and secondary school students participated in extracurricular, multi-ethnic activities supported by schools and municipalities.

U.S. support to higher education builds key skills so youth can participate in the labor market, and the U.S. presence on a North Macedonian university campus helps to counter Kremlin and People’s Republic of China (PRC) disinformation campaigns aimed at youth. The American Master’s Degree in Business Administration (MBA) Program supports the newly established university partnership between Indiana University and North Macedonia’s top institution – the University of Saints Cyril and Methodius (UKIM), to rebuild its MBA program. Through the partnership, UKIM aims to strengthen its existing courses with content pertaining to U.S. business practices and standards, U.S. teaching styles, and greater exchange with the United States. This program better prepares students to improve the country’s business sector and take advantage of increasing U.S. and EU trade and investment and counters growing Russian and People’s Republic of China presence and influence.