



22 projects in 16 regions receive funding under the second edition of the Drop by Drop grant program

Sofia, 13 May 2026 At a special event held at the Sofia City Library, representatives of 12 municipalities and 9 non-governmental organisations received symbolic cheques for the approved projects under the second edition of the *Drop by Drop* (“Drop by Drop”) grant programme. The initiative is part of JTI’s global program to improve access to clean drinking water and better hygiene conditions for vulnerable communities (Global WASH). The initiative is funded by the JTI Foundation and, in Bulgaria, is implemented in partnership with the BCause Foundation.

A total of 22 projects across 16 regions of Bulgaria will be implemented with the support of the programme. They will be carried out in settlements with a combined population of 130,460 people and are aimed at improving access to clean water, better hygiene conditions, and a higher quality living environment in local communities.

The approved applicants include municipalities, mayoralities, local associations, and non-governmental organisations, which will implement sustainable solutions tailored to the specific needs of their communities.

In addition to the official presentation of the symbolic cheques, the event also provided an opportunity for practical guidance and experience sharing. Participants received additional information on project management and reporting, as well as useful recommendations on engaging local communities and ensuring more effective communication with citizens during project implementation.

“Sometimes a small change – a working public fountain in the village centre, access to bathing facilities for people in need, or a secure source of clean water for a school—can transform the daily life of an entire community. For us, Drop by Drop is exactly that: an opportunity to support real, practical solutions that improve people’s lives. We believe that access to clean water and proper hygiene is a basic necessity, which is why we invest in projects with long-term impact and genuine value for local communities,” commented Dimitar Naydenov from JTI Bulgaria.

The grant component is a core element of the *Drop by Drop* programme, which is being implemented in Bulgaria during the period 2025–2027 with a total budget of USD 1.5 million.



The initiative aims to improve access to water, sanitation, and hygiene through three main pillars: the construction of public water fountains in Sofia and Blagoevgrad, now also in Kazanlak; support for social organisations providing hygiene services to people in need; and funding for local initiatives through a national grant program.

With the second edition of the grant programme, part of *Drop by Drop*, the initiative continues its commitment to supporting sustainable solutions with long-term impact for local communities in Bulgaria – because real change happens gradually, drop by drop.

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BCause Foundation

BCause Foundation is an expert organisation and an established leader with 30 years of experience at national and international level (since 1995). It encourages individuals, organisations, and communities to transform their lives by fostering a culture of giving and social investment. In 2025, the Foundation's donor programmes supported people and organisations with a total amount of nearly EUR 2.2 million.

The JTI Foundation

The JTI Foundation is a charitable organization established in 2001 with the aim of helping communities become more resilient to disasters. Financially endowed by JTI, it supports disaster management through long-term risk-reduction programs, preparedness activities and emergency response. All initiatives are delivered through trusted NGO partners. Since its inception, the Foundation has funded more than 100 projects across 50 countries. Launched in 2019, the Global WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) initiative supports communities where access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene remains limited. Since its launch, more than one million people across 10 countries have gained improved access to essential WASH services, supported by over USD 20 million in investment and 14 projects active or completed.