



BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA
Ministarstvo za ljudska prava i izbjeglice
БОСНА И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНА
Министарство за људска права и избјеглице
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



20 June, World Refugee Day

Together for the most vulnerable

Front page:

Returnee couple with two children in front of their new home in Bijeljina. Photo: UNHCR/V.Ćerimagić

Sarajevo, 20 June 2016

This brochure was jointly produced by the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the UNHCR Representation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Photos and texts are property of MHRR and UNHCR unless otherwise marked.



BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA
Ministarstvo za ljudska prava i izbjeglice
БОСНА И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНА
Министарство за људска права и избјеглице
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees



Minister for Human Rights and Refugees of BiH
SEMIHA BOROVC

More than a half of the pre-war domicile population was forcibly displaced from their homes in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the period 1992-1995, and around 98,000 persons continue to have an internally displaced person status, which places BiH among the countries with the biggest refugee and displacement problem in Europe.

Annex VII to the Dayton Peace Accords reaffirms the commitment to respecting the rights of refugees and internally displaced persons, particularly their right to return, as well as the right to repossession of property and/or compensation. The Government of Bosnia and

Herzegovina remains committed to the Revised Strategy for the implementation of Annex VII from 2010, and this is the reason why the BiH Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees has since 2011 launched numerous initiatives to secure funds necessary for the substantial closure of the refugee and internal displacement chapter as soon as possible, because commitment to the wellbeing of refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees within Bosnia and Herzegovina is not just humanitarian in nature. The comprehensive implementation of the Agreement on Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons remains a

photo: UNHCR/W. Cerinmagić



Economic sustainability of return of vulnerable displaced people or of their integration in new environments is essential for the success of the Revised strategy for implementation of Annex VII of the DPA.

substantial issue and key condition for achieving the long-lasting stability and maintaining peace, not only in our country but in the whole region.

Although huge efforts taken at all levels in BiH with international community's great contribution have undoubtedly yielded real and important results, numerous challenges in terms of securing access to the rights guaranteed under international and domestic legal

frameworks still remain:

- the largest number of refugees and internally displaced persons are still unable to return because their pre-war properties have not been reconstructed yet or the ground in their returning communities has not yet been cleared of landmines and because of the absence of basic infrastructure;
- numerous persons who did not own any property before the war did not have an opportunity to



benefit from a project that would have enabled them and their families to find a durable solution through reconstruction, sustainable measures;

- at the same time, numerous returnees are facing a dire economic situation that threatens their survival in a returning community;

- economic opportunities remain very meagre, there is often a serious lack of infrastructure, including electricity supply, and their access to rights and services, such as health protection, education, social protection and pensions, is limited for various reasons;

- not infrequently, these limitations are deeply rooted in discrimination, which is in contravention of the principles of Annex VII, the BiH Constitution and the international law. As often as not, a primary obstacle to returns is posed by a changed social environment in which numerous persons, including young people in particular, are looking for opportunities to pursue higher education and get a job in cities, instead of rural communities;

- a particular problem is the impossibility to keep the entitlements acquired in places of displacement, including the entitlements acquired in places of temporary reception but are not transferrable upon return.

In order to address these remain-

ing major challenges, the Ministry will adopt a more consistent needs-based approach, will seek to expand existing good practices in municipality-level team work approaches to beneficiary selection and will aim to reinforce coordination at all levels including at the State ministerial level to ensure timely completion of the Revised Strategy.

We are aware that our international partners are facing a great challenge of the global migrant crisis, but considering that there is a huge disproportion between investments and real needs for the accomplishment of the goals set in the BiH Strategy for the Implementation of Annex VII of the Dayton Peace Agreement, we hope that this challenge will not shake their resolve and that they will not give up a well-defined path of granting support to the return process in BiH.

This is the only way for Annex VII to be truly implemented because only together we have the capacity to assist the most vulnerable people who in BiH are, undoubtedly, refugees, internally displaced persons and refugees who deserve to live a decent life in the 21st century.

Returnee to Bosanski Petrovac, in a new apartment
constructed within the EU-financed IPA project
“My place under the Sun”



photo: UNHCR/M. Poturović



BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA
Ministarstvo za ljudska prava i izbjeglice
БОСНА И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНА
Министарство за људска прava и избјеглице
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees



**Head of EU Delegation to BiH and
EU Special Representative in BiH, Ambassador
LARS-GUNNAR WIGEMARK**

Today, on the World Refugee Day, our thoughts go out to more than 65 million women, children and men around the world who are forced to flee their homes because of war, conflict, or persecution. Half of this refugee population are now children. We may be able to count the numbers, but we could never quantify the human pain, broken families, destroyed childhoods and livelihoods that come with fleeing a war or a disaster.

In 1995 there were more than two million refugees and displaced persons as a result of the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the last 25 years, many of them have gone back to their homes. The Eu-

ropean Union assisted in reconstructing around 30,000 properties and creating more than 4,500 job opportunities. But as long as there is a single family that wants to return but has not yet been able to, this work will not be finished.

Every single man, woman and child, who has returned to live in towns and villages across Bosnia and Herzegovina and the entire Balkan region, testify to the simple truth:

The evolution of a modern democratic society is predicated on the reintegration of communities – not on their permanent division.

Refugee from Croatia in front of his house in Trebinje Municipality, reconstructed within the Regional Housing Programme



photo: RHP/G. Sivački



BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA
Ministarstvo za ljudska prava i izbjeglice
БОСНА И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНА
Министарство за људска права и избјеглице
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees



photo: UNHCR/M. Poturović

The EU supports different measures of economic sustainability of the return of displaced people to their places of origin, or of their integration in their new environment

Today, the biggest obstacle to return is no longer political or administrative; it is a lack of economic opportunity. Providing durable housing solutions for the most vulnerable and internally displaced is one of the targets of the Regional Housing Programme, a joint initiative by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia, supported by the EU. Every reform that makes it easier to start a new company in Bosnia and Herzegovina, attract investment, or create new jobs enhances the ability of remaining refugees and displaced persons to return to their homes. We must see much more of those, and help ensure that every measure we take is sustainable in the

long run.

We will continue working towards that end together with our partners - the BiH Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees, Entity ministries for refugees and displaced persons, the Department for refugees, displaced persons and housing of Brčko District BiH, municipal authorities and local communities, and our partners in the international community, UNHCR as the lead organisation.

On this day let us remind ourselves of the European values, especially the solidarity we owe to show to the less fortunate.

Millions of people around the world continue to count on our help to survive. and live with dignity.

For displaced people, like this elderly woman living in the collective centre in Tešanj, life in social and economic isolation for many years requires targeted and sustainable solutions.



photo: UNHCR/Cerimagic



BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA
Ministarstvo za ljudska prava i izbjeglice
БОСНА И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНА
Министарство за људска права и избјеглице
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees

photo: UNHCR/M. Poturović



**UNHCR Regional Representative for South Eastern Europe and
UNHCR Representative in BiH
ANDREW MAYNE**

On World Refugee Day 2016 we think of 65 million people around the world who have been forcibly displaced by violence and conflict. They are our human family and they need our protection.

But among them are the tens of thousands of displaced people in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in neighbouring countries who, 20 years after the war, still remain without a solution.

There are almost 100,000 people who are still listed as internally displaced in BiH, who need a real solution: secure and reliable access to rights, services, livelihoods and decent accommodation, as well as continuing support to assist wher-

ever possible their return to their communities of origin.

Among these are the thousands of families with young children and hundreds of frail, elderly people who still live in over 150 'temporary' collective centres of BiH, in truly unacceptable conditions.

And UNHCR estimates that almost 50,000 people who have already returned to areas where they are now in the minority, still lack access to rights, services, livelihoods and proper housing and have not been able to progress towards truly sustainable reintegration.

Among the million people who fled BiH to neighbouring countries and further afield, up to 2,500 families

Commissions for Social Protection and Inclusion bring together local authorities and civil society in identifying the most vulnerable displaced families and ensuring most effective assistance.



photo: UNHCR/V. Cerimagić



BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA
Ministarstvo za ljudska prava i izbjeglice
БОСНА И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНА
Министарство за људска права и избјеглице
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees

are said to be unable to achieve a solution without help to return to their homes in BiH.

These people, who are among the most disadvantaged and vulnerable populations in BiH today, have a right to know: Is help coming? Or have they been forgotten and cast aside for other priorities? What help is available, and how will we ensure that it reaches the people with the most acute needs?

Today, on World Refugee Day 2016, UNHCR and the European Union join BiH Minister for Human Rights and Refugees, Minister Semiha Borovac, in sending a clear answer:

Help is now coming fast – and we are working together to reach those in greatest need

The strategy is in place; plans have been agreed among the many partners and stakeholders; projects are in operation that will eventually assist some 34,000 returnees, refugees and internally displaced people.

What is needed now is a concerted joint effort to complete the implementation of the Annex VII Revised Strategy within an agreed time frame – so that people no longer need to be displaced.

All partners involved in Annex VII solutions are now working to pool their data on the population of con-

cern, assistance already provided and known remaining needs in support of joint prioritization.

The partners have also formed joint teams with municipalities to identify and agree on selection of the neediest beneficiary households and to improve sustainable access to rights, services and livelihoods – an approach that now needs to be extended to ten further high-priority municipalities.

The ministerial-level coordination body for Annex VII, led by Minister Borovac, should see their main tasks as steering Annex VII to completion by an agreed deadline, engaging key line ministries that are able to solve the remaining Annex VII problems, mobilizing more government resources to address jointly-prioritized remaining needs, and promoting fuller engagement of local authorities for sustainability of solutions.

This strengthened ministerial coordination body, growing field-based teamwork and the improved data sharing among partners represent real progress and potential. Programmes must now be shaped and tightened, and all major remaining problems put on track to a solution by mid-2017.



Children from a 5-member returnee household in front of their new home in Olovo Municipality that was constructed thanks to the REGIONAL HOUSING PROGRAMME

The Regional Housing Programme (RHP) originates from the so-called Sarajevo Process that provided a political framework for the closure of the protracted displacement in the Western Balkans. It was designed to provide housing solutions for 74,000 people in the region.

The RHP is financed through a multi-donor fund, which is managed by the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) and funded by the European Union, the USA, Germany, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, Denmark, Turkey, Luxembourg, Cyprus, Romania, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic and Hungary. The Programme is sup-

ported by UNHCR and the OSCE in line with their mandates.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Country Housing Project within the RHP is expected to provide durable and sustainable housing solutions to the most vulnerable categories of refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs) and returnees. In all, 5,400 households (or 14,000 individuals) are to be assisted, of which 3,850 households are to return to their places of origin and be reintegrated, 1,270 households will be integrated in their places of displacement, while 280 beneficiary households will be provided with a durable housing solution within the social welfare system.



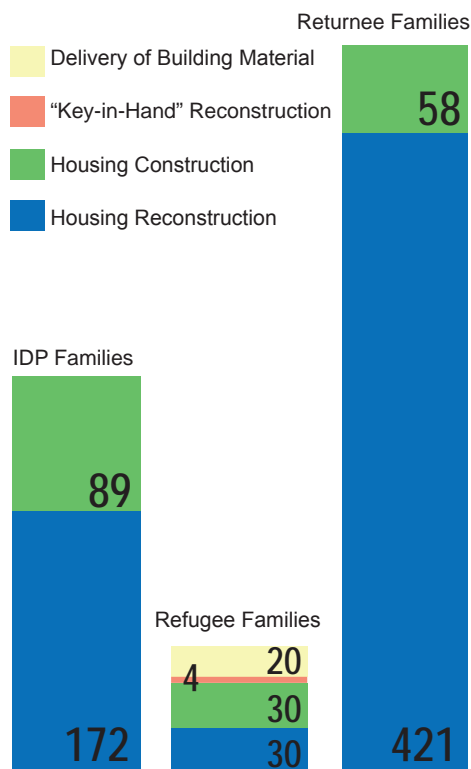
The total cost of the BiH Country Housing Project within the RHP is estimated at EUR 101 million, including EUR 15 million pledged by Bosnia and Herzegovina as the national contribution towards the project implementation.

The Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of BiH was nominated as the lead institution of the Country Housing Project within the RHP in BiH, while the Federal Ministry of Displaced Persons and Refugees, Ministry for Refugees and Displaced Persons of the RS, and the Brčko District BiH Department for Displaced Persons, Refugees and Housing Issues were tasked with its implementation.

Sustainability of RHP projects in BiH will be achieved by combining the State's programmes with projects provided by different local organisations and international donors, including a U.S. Government-funded project implemented by the CRS. Supplementary measures include assistance to elderly and immobile persons; construction of the roads leading to the houses of the most vulnerable families; assistance to families with many children; securing economic support, access to rights to social and health care. A UNHCR-funded programme identifies the most effective ways to achieve sustainability for vulnerable displaced and returnee families.

So far, around BAM 80 million have been approved for BiH through four sub-projects that will ensure housing for around 1,870 families in more than 80 towns and municipalities across BiH. According to the plan, around 200 families will have moved into their reconstructed or newly built homes by the end of this year and around 1,600 families in the course of next year.

RHP in BiH first two sub-project's selected family status



REGIONAL HOUSING PROGRAMME

The Parganlija Family: “Our house is the most beautiful in the world”

In the year 1992, when the war was ravaging his native Bosnia and Herzegovina, Parganlija Bego, then 13-year-old boy, had to leave with his family their house in the village of Kazagići, near Goražde. The house in which he spent his childhood was replaced by a school that was at the time used as a collective centre. They lived in severe conditions, in the basement full of smoke, together with many people, without enough food and water. The dream of returning to his house, his home in Kazagic, gave Bego comfort during the difficult wartime years.

Once the conditions permitted, in 1996, the Parganlija family re-

turned to their home in Kazagići. The house was burnt down, but Bego had no choice, nowhere else to live. He built in a door, put the plate on the leaking roof, and made the house habitable. “One’s own house is the best, whatever its condition,” Bego often used to say. Meanwhile, this worthy young man got married and had two children, so that the Parganlija family, now consisting of seven members, had to live in one room. The hardest thing was to endure the harsh Bosnian winters. The wind was blowing from all sides, so they had to put blankets on the windows for at least a little protection from the cold and moisture; diseases and



poverty were their constant companions.

The Parganlija family got a glimpse of hope for a better life in 2015, after applying through a public call by the MHRR, they signed the contract on a donation through the Regional Housing Programme (RHP). This was the turning point, after which everything for the Parganlija family started to get better. They received a moto cultivator from the organization *Catholic Relief Services* (CRS), to support the sustainability of their return, as selected beneficiaries of the RHP. They also bought a used trailer, so they can now transport hay and wood.

Bego says: "It is a good machine, has 10 horse powers and is a great help to me. It pulls and works for three men, and I do not know what I'd do without it. "

In addition to a new house and a cultivator, the Parganlija family now has a cow and chicken, so it's easier to feed the family. These good people recovered joy in their lives and are now ready to move on. They planted potatoes, apple seedlings, vines, walnut ... Bego proudly shows a plant of watermelons and says, laughing: "Maybe it will produce, so we will also have watermelons". He also reveals some new "business ideas". Picking and drying herbs, making locust jam and dandelion honey, are

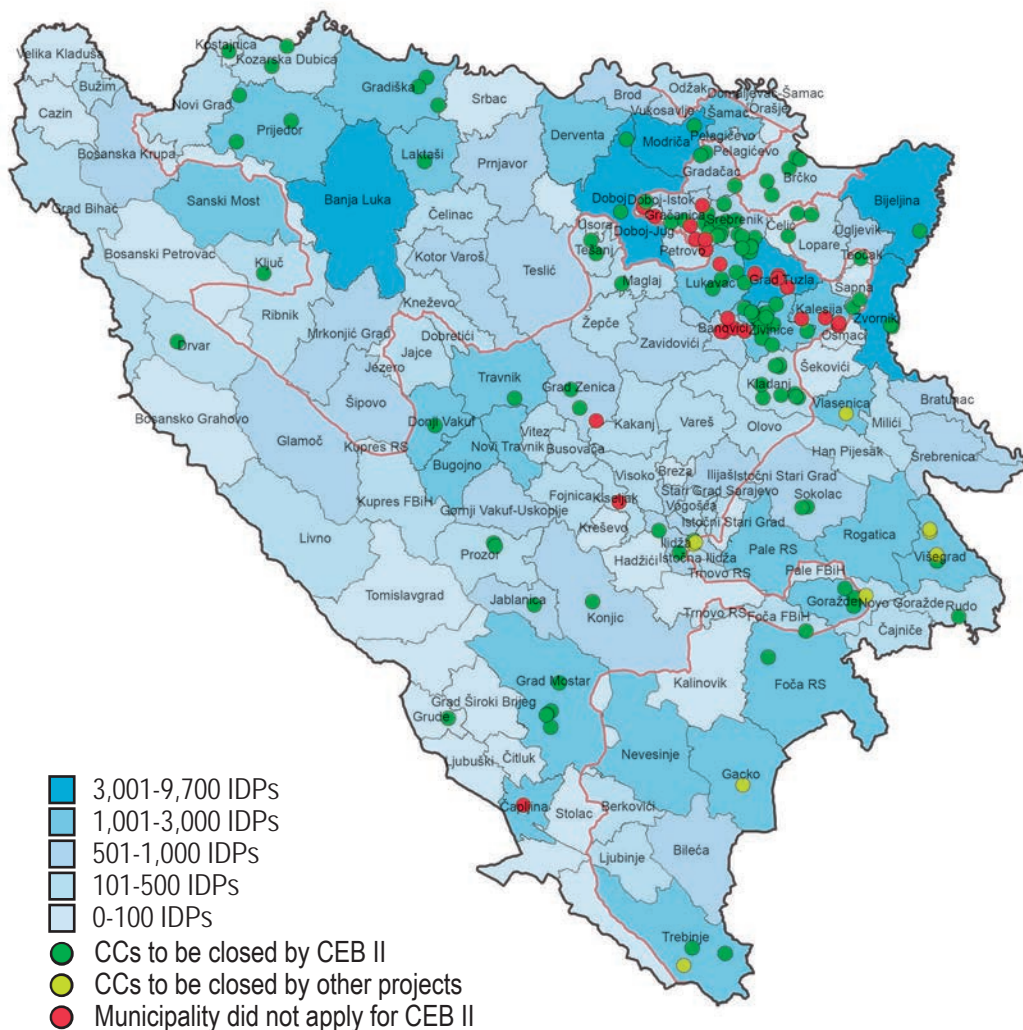
only part of his business plans. Who knows, maybe the story of the Parganlija family will soon be mentioned on the economy pages of one of the newspapers.

The Parganlija family is grateful to all those who helped them, first of all to the European Union, the governments of the United States, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Turkey, Norway, Denmark, as well as all other donors. They are also thankful to the MHRR, the Federal Ministry of Displaced Persons and Refugees, and the municipality of Goražde.

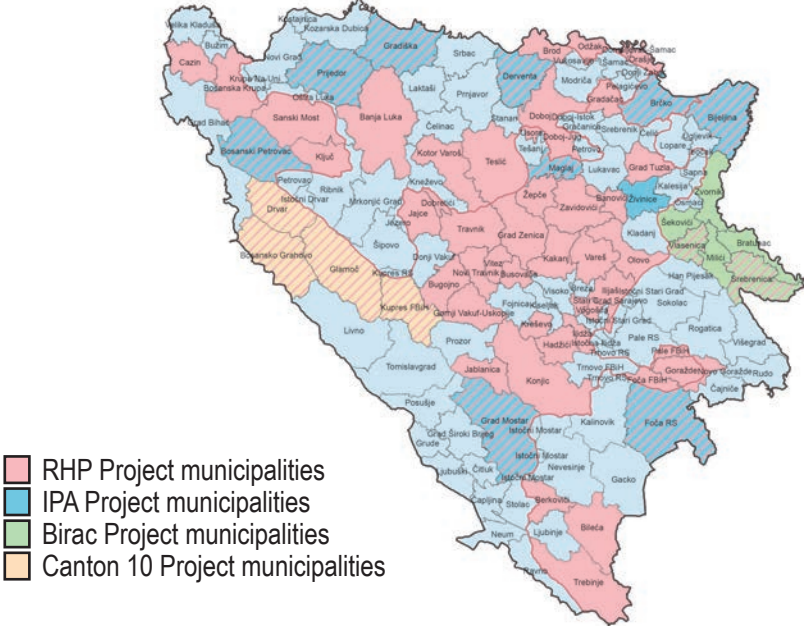
Bego is following all news about the RHP. He is glad that this project will also enable the construction of buildings in Ilidža and Foča, and says: "I am glad that more families will experience happiness, just as I felt," because, as he says, "there is nothing more beautiful than this. "There are many refugees in the world, but these donors have decided to help us. This is not a small matter. Once again they showed that they are great friends of Bosnia and Herzegovina and of Bosnian-Herzegovian nation. The donation that I have received has changed my life. Even the illness of my family members is somehow more bearable in a new house. What can I say, I got a house, the most beautiful in the world ", Bego tells us bidding farewell.

MAPPING OF DISPLACEMENT AND SOLUTIONS IN BiH

Municipality-level distribution of Internally Displaced People in BiH in 2016 and Mapping of distribution of Collective Centers in BiH, including those to be closed within the scope of the CEB II project



Municipalities included in ongoing projects: RHP, IPA, Canton 10 and BIRAC



Municipalities included in ongoing projects: OPEC and SFD

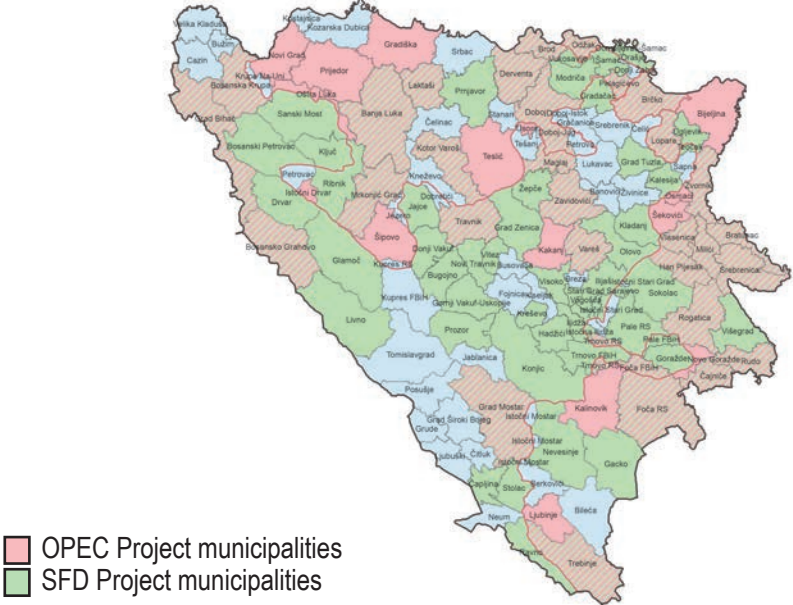


photo: UNHCR/M Poturović



Economic sustainability of displaced people is in the focus of the project “MY PLACE UNDER THE SUN”, which is supported by the EU and UNHCR

The project “**IPA 2012 - Support to Durable Solutions of the Revised Strategy for the Implementation of Annex VII of the Dayton Peace Agreement**” aims to assist at least 2,400 vulnerable internally displaced people (IDPs) and returnees, including women victims of war, in addressing their social and economic challenges. This shall be achieved through close cooperation between local communities and authorities, civil society and project partners, and with the support of the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Federal Ministry for Displaced Persons and Refugees, the Ministry for Ref-

ugees and Displaced Persons of RS and Brčko District Department for Displaced Persons, Refugees and Housing Affairs.

Also known as “My Place Under the Sun”, this multi-year project (2014 – 2016) is funded by the European Union in the amount of € 7 million and co-financed with € 1.1 million by UNHCR, which is also the lead agency in the project implementation.

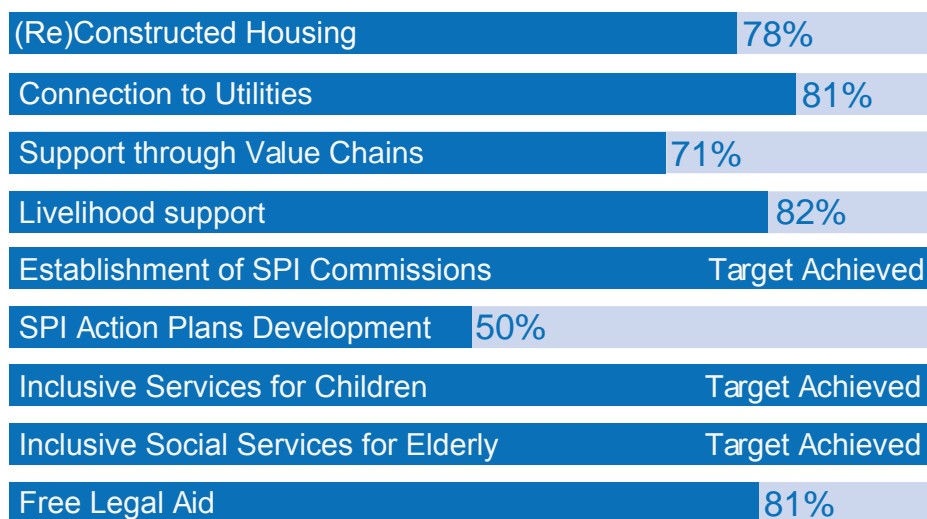
Together with the local authorities and civil society organizations, the project partners identify in a transparent manner the most vulnerable families among the IDPs and returnees, to ensure that they receive the most effective assistance



and to strengthen their social protection and inclusion. The project is expected to result in the development of the Municipality Social Inclusion and Protection Plans, as well as to provide free legal aid for 500 people, sustainability support for at least 480 families, housing for 125 families, basic and specific assistance for 300 children and families and home health care for 200 elderly people. For this project, ten municipalities have been identified as priority, based on the severity and scope of problems faced by the IDPs and returnees: Brčko District

BiH, Bijeljina, Bosanski Petrovac, Derventa, Foča, Gradiška, Maglaj, Mostar, Prijedor and Živinice. Its different components are carried out by UNHCR, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Hilfswerk Austria International (HWAi), Bosnian Humanitarian Logistics Services (BHLS), Foundation of Local Democracy (FLD) and the Association of Vaša Prava BiH (VP).

Project implementation results in 2014 and 2015



Finding DURABLE AND SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS for people in real need, through team work

Returnees to Foča who have received support and assistance through the project “IPA 2012 - Support to Durable Solutions of Revised Annex VII Dayton Peace Agreement Implementation Strategy”, implemented by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) since 2014, can now lead decent lives.

Support is now reaching the people in real need, coming right to their front doors, due to the efforts of an entire team of partner organisations involved in the project funded by the European Union under the IPA 2012 programme in the amount of EUR 7 million and co-funded by UNHCR in the amount

of EUR 1.107,500, but also strongly supported by the local authorities and associations of returnees and internally displaced persons that are implementing the project with dedication.

Team work for assistance to people in real need

The overall objective of the project is to provide durable solutions for the most vulnerable displaced families, minority returnees and women-victims of war through team work and cooperation between local authorities, local communities, civil society and implementing partners. One of the main tasks is to form Municipality Operational



Teams composed of the representatives of municipal authorities, civil society organisations and project partners that will identify in an efficient and transparent way the most vulnerable families from these categories and provide specific assistance through the project funds.

As a result, new jobs or self-employment possibilities have been created; individual farmers were incentivised and linked to companies in order to ensure the sale of their products. Housing units with relevant infrastructure were built or reconstructed, and returnees were provided efficient and timely legal aid. At the same time, they have received support in psycho-social integration into local communities. Foča is one of the ten municipalities involved in the project. A Municipal Commission for Social Protection and Inclusion was formed in mid-2014. Municipality Operational Teams and Working Groups for Social Protection, Housing and Economic Sustainability were formed as well. The Municipality received software that enabled the creation of a solid database on returnees and IDPs and provided a basis for future activities. The Working Groups used the database during the reconstruction of houses and for economic sustainability purposes with a view to identifying beneficiaries more easily. The Municipality adopted the

relevant 2016-2017 Action Plan.

All interviewees agree that the project has been successful precisely because the people in real need were identified quickly and efficiently in order to help them get back on their feet and live independently. This was taken into consideration when the Commission and the Municipality Operational Team were formed. The Working Groups include representatives of associations of returnee and internally displaced families who are the best source of information about those people. In order to get the most precise information possible, they contacted local community leaders and the Social Work Centre.

Explaining the beneficiary selection process, adviser to the head of Foča Municipality for returns and municipal coordinator for returns Lutvija Sukalo says that he meets with a dozen people on a daily basis. Everything is checked and the overall situation is known. Cooperation with the non-governmental sector is extremely important.

Hilfswerk Austria, one of the partners, is engaged in housing construction and economic sustainability in all ten municipalities involved in the project. Over the past two years, it had 16 beneficiaries, returnees and IDPs, in Foča. They had their houses built or reconstructed under the standards set by the BiH Ministry for

SUPPORT TO DURABLE SOLUTIONS
brings smile back on the faces of displaced people



photo: UNHCR/Cerimagić



BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA
Ministarstvo za ljudska prava i izbjeglice
БОСНА И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНА
Министарство за људска права и избјеглице
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees

Human Rights and Refugees. It is for the first time ever that the houses built or reconstructed for returnees and IDPs have thermally insulated façades. The houses are connected to public infrastructure wherever possible.

Participating in the project, the Foča Municipality issued, free of charge, building permits and other documentation necessary for the construction of houses and developed a rural water supply feasibility study, providing ten households with access to the water supply network.

More than 30 families received assistance to make a living. One enterprise was supported through expansion of its production capacities, which created two more jobs in Foča.

Like a candy shop

When we visited them in their reconstructed house in the village of Ivanovići, in Foča's local community of Slatina, the spouses Hasan (1949) and Arifa Ćorić (1950) couldn't hide their happiness. They lived in a wooden cottage they had built for themselves for five years. Since their children live in Sarajevo and visit them only from time to time, this couple live their returnee life most of the time alone. The keys to their new home, built across from the old cottage were handed over to them end of last

year. The Ćorićs received a motor cultivator for tillage and transport of fire woods, and a generator as their village does not yet have power supply.

"Our house is like a candy shop. If we only could get more donations like this one. They helped me live longer", says Hasan, who decided to return after he retired.

Arifa's biggest wish is to get electric power so she could use a washing machine instead of hand-washing their clothing.

They learned about the project from Izet Kundo, chair of the Association of Returnees and IDPs in Foča, who suggested that they should submit papers to the municipal authorities.

The project "My Place Under the Sun" restored the return process and put the smile back on people's faces. Apart from Foča, the project is implemented also in Brčko District BiH Bijeljina, Bosanski Petrovac, Derвента, Gradiška, Maglaj, Mostar, Prijedor and Živinice.

Vulnerable residents of a collective centre in Tešanj Municipality hope for a better future through the project CLOSING OF ...

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, over 8,500 people still live in inhumane conditions in 156 collective centres (CCs) and alternative accommodation (AA), and appropriate solutions must be found for their residents. Many of them are IDPs who cannot or do not want to return to their pre-war homes for objective reasons, and who require humanitarian assistance, protection and support with inclusion in the communities where they currently live. The majority of these beneficiaries are elderly, chronically ill, persons with disabilities, women victims of war, highly traumatized individuals, and female-headed households. The main objective of the project **“Closing of Collective Centres**

and Alternative Accommodation through Provision of Public Housing Solutions” is the rehousing of 7,247 vulnerable residents of 121 (78% of total) collective centres and alternative accommodation in 2,611 housing units in 46 municipalities throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, by 2019. The solutions envisaged by the project also known as “CEB II” will mostly comprise non-profit social housing and accommodation in geriatric and other specialized institutions. UNHCR also advocates for the sustainability of these solutions, including satisfactory resolution of status and access to rights. For the implementation of this project, the Council of Europe Devel-





...COLLECTIVE CENTERS AND ALTERNATIVE ACCOMODATION THROUGH PROVISION OF PUBLIC HOUSING SOLUTIONS

opment Bank (CEB) gave a loan to the State, amounting to EUR 60 million, while the State is contributing to this project with EUR 42.7 million (in cash and in-kind). UNHCR received a grant of additional EUR 1.15 million by the CEB/Western Balkans Joint Fund (EWBJF) for technical support and administrative services to the implementation structures of this project by the end of 2017, as well as support for the monitoring and verification of project beneficiaries. Implementing partners include the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, supported by the responsible en-

tity ministries and local authorities, and UNHCR.

At the start of 2016, UNHCR engaged its long-term partner, the Catholic Relief Services, to, among other things, develop action plans to sensitise local population to a welcoming attitude to former collective centre and alternative accommodation inhabitants, who will move into newly established public housing units.

Within the task's scope, Catholic Relief Services will develop a multi-year project intended to cater for a successful socio-economic inclusion of the beneficiaries.

A young boy with a serious expression is sitting on the grass in front of a rustic stone wall. He is wearing a light-colored tank top and grey pants. The background shows a wooden structure and more of the stone wall. The photo is credited to UNDP.

photo: UNDP

Dragan is the only child in the returnee village of Tiškovac, a community benefiting from a UNTFHS project in CANTON 10

The project “**Applying the Human Security Concept to Stabilize Communities in Canton 10**” aims to enhance partnerships between local authorities and project participants with the objective of strengthening capacities of cantonal and municipal authorities in providing social services and other forms of support to vulnerable groups, IDPs and returnees. In particular, the project seeks to address economic, social and other disparities that are particularly affecting vulnerable groups in Canton 10 through multiple domains - from schools to police, from supporting economic development to supporting government capacities.

This 3-year project is supported through the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS) with an estimated budget of USD 2.5 million. It is jointly implemented by UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR and IOM in partnership with the Government of Canton 10, the municipalities of Canton 10, the Red Cross, The Cantonal Centre for Social Welfare, and local civil society organizations (CSOs).

The “**Birac Region Development and Cooperation Project**” is a joint initiative of UNDP, UNICEF and UNHCR. It builds on previous and on-going support to the municipalities in the Birač region





With the support of the BIRAC project, the “Support corner” for children with developmental delays and the parents was established in Vlasenica

for inter-municipal and regional cooperation to support bottom-up partnership approach to development and foster territorial cohesion.

Primarily targeting sub-regional territories, this approach is community-led by local action groups (LAG) composed of the representatives of local public and private socio-economic interests. It rests on a joint area-based integrated development strategy, designed to take into consideration local needs and potential, and encourage active engagement of all stakeholders in pursuing the joint regional development agenda.

The project, which is funded by

the Government of the Netherlands (USD 2.1 million) and co-financed by five municipalities (USD 300,000), is expected to identify minority returnees and communities so that their needs can be addressed in social and development plans.

The project is implemented by the BiH Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations; Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of RS; Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of RS; Ministry of Education and Culture of RS; Municipalities of Srebrenica, Milici, Bratunac, Zvornik and Vlasenica; UNDP, UNICEF and UNHCR.

photo:MHRR

Fiza Velagić from Glamoč Municipality with Minister Borovac RETURN AREAS ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT

Story:MHRR

The amount of around BAM 15,770,000 has so far been invested in the projects of electrification of returning communities in 60 project municipalities in BiH, connecting more than 2,050 reconstructed housing units of returnees and IDPs to the power grid. Around 300 more housing units will be connected in the next period.

In February 2016, the BiH Minister for Human Rights and Refugees, Semiha Borovac, signed in the Municipality of Glamoč agreements of cooperation in the implementation of the projects, in the amount of BAM 267,500, of electrifying housing units of IDPs and returnees.

The funds will be used for the electrification of 40 returnee homes in the municipalities of Glamoč, Dobretići, Gacko and Ravno.

After signing the agreements, Minister Borovac visited returnees in the village of Dragnjići, around 30 km from Glamoč. The villagers were very happy that funds for the electrification of their village had been provided.

“My biggest wish is that I get lighting at home while I am still alive so that I can see this world”, said a 94-year old Fiza Velagić, of the village of Dragnjići.

The BiH Council of Ministers is committed to improving the liveli-



hoods of the returnee population as one of the most vulnerable categories of the population in BiH, the Minister emphasized.

“Unfortunately, even 20 years after the end of the war, that population still lacks even the minimum conditions for returns, such as electricity supply and roads, and also employment opportunities, healthcare, education...All this leads to the accomplishment of our goal, which is to create conditions for sustainable returns and conditions for decent lives of returnees in the 21st century”, Minister Borovac said.

The BiH Commission on Refugees and Displaced Persons issued a decision end of March 2016 providing a framework for the allocation of the 2015 funds, under which the amount of BAM 625,000 is earmarked for the funding of the projects of electrification of housing units of displaced persons and returnees. The funds will be allocated on the basis of the BiH Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees’ public call to municipalities in BiH to submit priority electrification needs in returnee communities.



House reconstruction in Novi Travnik is under way within the project supported by the SAUDI FUND FOR DEVELOPMENT

The project “**Sustainable Returns of Refugees and IDPs: Reconstruction of Housing**”, with the Saudi Fund for Development’s BAM 22 million loan will co-finance reconstruction of housing units, infrastructure and social infrastructure in order to provide durable solutions to around 4,000 persons – refugees, IDPs and returnees displaced from their homes during the 1992-1995 conflict. The project will enable reconstruction of 901 housing units (553 in the FBiH; 314 in the RS; and 34 in the Brčko District of BiH).

The project implementation began in 2015 and will be carried out by the relevant authorities in a total of 83 municipalities in the BiH

Federation (50) and in the Republika Srpska (33) as well as in the Brčko District BiH. In some cases, the project is implemented by the municipalities, at their request, in order to ensure the most efficient and cost-effective implementation. Works have thus far begun in nine municipalities on 77 housing units. Works on around 300 housing units throughout BiH are expected to be completed in the course of 2016.

The **OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID)** loan in the amount of USD 7 million will co-finance the reconstruction of approximately 400 housing units, providing accommodation





A house in Vareš Municipality reconstructed within a project of the OPEC FUND FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

for around 1,500 refugees, IDPs and returnees and helping reintegration into their communities. The two BiH entities and the Brčko District co-finance the project with USD 1 million, with a view to helping secure durable solutions for returning refugees and internally displaced persons, particularly the so-called minority returnees, to all parts of the country.

The project began in 2013 and will be implemented in 45 municipalities in the BiH Federation and in the Republika Srpska, as well as in the Brčko District. The project was completed by two implementing partners (in accordance with a decision by the BiH Commission on Refugees and Internally Displaced

Persons). Currently, 29 housing units are being reconstructed in the Brčko District. According to the Federation Ministry of Displaced Persons and Refugees and the RS Ministry of Displaced Persons, 341 housing units have been reconstructed in 51 towns/ municipalities in both entities.

Thanks to savings in implementation, additional 71 beneficiaries of the project were approved, and the BiH Commission on Refugees and Displaced Persons is currently verifying further lists, with a view to reconstruct additional housing units. Overall, analysis of the project implementation and of the level of its completion indicate that the project goal has been achieved.



BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA

Ministarstvo za ljudska prava i izbjeglice

БОСНА И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНА

Министарство за људска права и избјеглице

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees

20 June
World Refugee Day

20. juni/lipnja
Svjetski dan izbjeglica

Zajedno za najugroženije
Together for the most vulnerable