

RHP Highlights 2013-2014



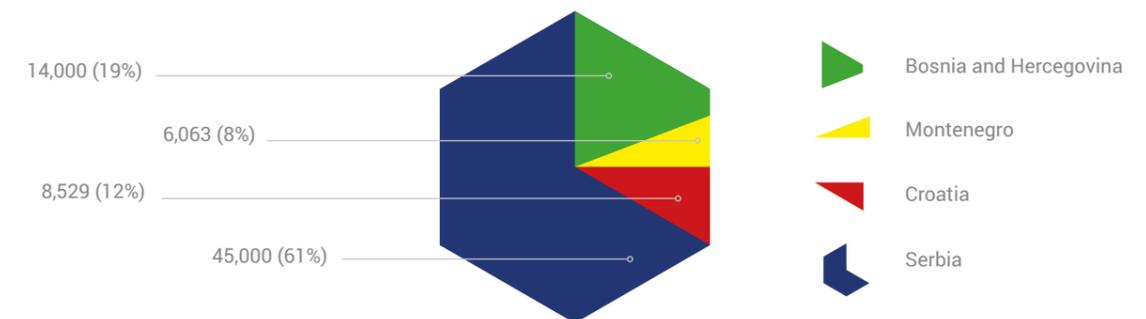


RHP at a GLANCE

WHAT IS THE REGIONAL HOUSING PROGRAMME?

It is a joint initiative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia (the Partner Countries). The RHP aims to provide a sustainable housing solution to close to 74,000 people or 27,000 households and its total cost is estimated to be approximately EUR 584 million over a five-year period.

Number of Beneficiaries per Country



WHY?

The aim is to contribute towards resolving the protracted displacement situation of the most vulnerable refugees and displaced persons following the 1991-1995 conflicts on the territory of former Yugoslavia, including internally displaced persons in Montenegro from 1999, by providing them with durable housing solutions. RHP should also be seen as providing impetus to national and regional efforts aimed at resolving the problems related to legal, social and economic dimensions of the protracted displacement and hence, contributing to the stability of the region.

HOW?

The RHP comprises four Country Housing Projects (CHP), which are implemented in parallel in the four Partner Countries, through several sub-projects and in several phases.

www.regionalhousingprogramme.org

RHP PRINCIPLES

PARTNER COUNTRIES' OWNERSHIP

RHP is built upon an equal partnership with the four Partner Countries who are in charge of implementing the Programme. As such, it uses the Partner Countries' national structures and systems, which benefit from a strong capacity development component.

Each Partner Country has appointed a Lead Institution which is in charge of the overall programming of the CHP, including coordination with the local authorities and other stakeholders as well as the selection of beneficiaries who will be provided with durable housing solutions. In addition, each Partner Country has set up a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) which is in charge of, among other things, contract management and procurement to ensure an efficient CHP implementation.

These implementing structures have complete ownership of their CHPs. They have prepared detailed feasibility reports outlining their comprehensive implementation plans for the overall duration of the RHP. Likewise, the RHP implementing institutions in each Partner Country define their Technical Assistance needs on a yearly basis, in close coordination with the CEB.

Support to Partner Countries is offered through in-country resident Technical Assistance which is embedded within the implementing institutions. This Technical Assistance, which is financed by the European Union, is designed to be frontloaded, which entails a progressive reduction over time as the institutions are able to fill in resource and capacity gaps. This Technical Assistance component is supervised and managed by the CEB.

ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS

Donors, in particular the European Union which is the largest Donor of this initiative, and the U.S.A have been providing strong support to the Partner Countries in setting up the RHP in both financial and operational terms by playing a key role in the RHP governance and coordination structure.

UNHCR and OSCE have been tasked with helping to identify beneficiaries, monitoring their selection and ensuring that they receive adequate protection. As such, these institutions will play a crucial role in ensuring that the RHP effectively provides sustainable housing solutions to those refugees and displaced persons most in need.

The CEB plays three roles within the framework of RHP:

- **Management of the RHP Fund**, which entails managing and reporting on the contributions received from Donors;
- **Assistance to the Partner Countries** in preparing and implementing their CHPs as well as monitoring the use of grants disbursed from RHP Fund resources to the Partner Countries;
- **Facilitation of coordination** between all RHP stakeholders during RHP preparation and implementation phases.

RHP PROGRESS: FROM PREPARATION TO IMPLEMENTATION

The Regional Housing Programme moved in 2013 from preparation to its implementation phase. 2014 will witness the first sub-projects coming off the ground. This was the result of considerable efforts made by the four Partner Countries, with strong support from the Donors and international community.

Three operational milestones have been achieved by the Partner Countries: first, they set up national implementation structures; second, they developed full-fledged housing projects and secured funding from Donors for these projects and, third, they started implementation of activities on the ground.

Establishment of Partner Countries' implementing structures

RHP implementing structures in the Partner Countries were established and operational in 2013. CEB verified the systems, policies and practices that the Partner Countries' PIUs and Lead Institutions will use to implement the respective Country Housing Projects in order to strengthen these institutions, where necessary, and ensure that they have the required resources and procedures in place. This verification process resulted in a series of requirements in the areas of: structure and functional competencies; implementation capacity including financial management and accounting, procurement, risk management, and reporting and monitoring, which had to be fulfilled prior to the disbursement of any grants.

The legal framework in all four countries is now in place and all Framework Agreements have been signed and ratified (where necessary) between each Partner Country and the CEB. The specific conditions governing the financing of each sub-project are defined in the Grant Agreements; the first Grant Agreements were signed during the first half of 2014.

Approval of sub-projects

The Partner Countries have been actively preparing sub-project grant applications since late 2012. As a consequence, 2013 was an active year in terms of approvals: in the four Partner Countries altogether 12 sub-projects were approved by the RHP Assembly of Donors, for a total grant amount of EUR 61 million:

- Bosnia and Herzegovina – EUR 14.7 million
- Croatia – EUR 11.6 million
- Montenegro – EUR 10.1 million
- Serbia – EUR 24.5 million

RHP implementation activities in the Partner Countries

The Partner Countries have already prepared procurement plans for the sub-projects which were approved in April 2013 and are in the process of finalising the tender documentation in order to be able to launch the first tenders in the first half of 2014.

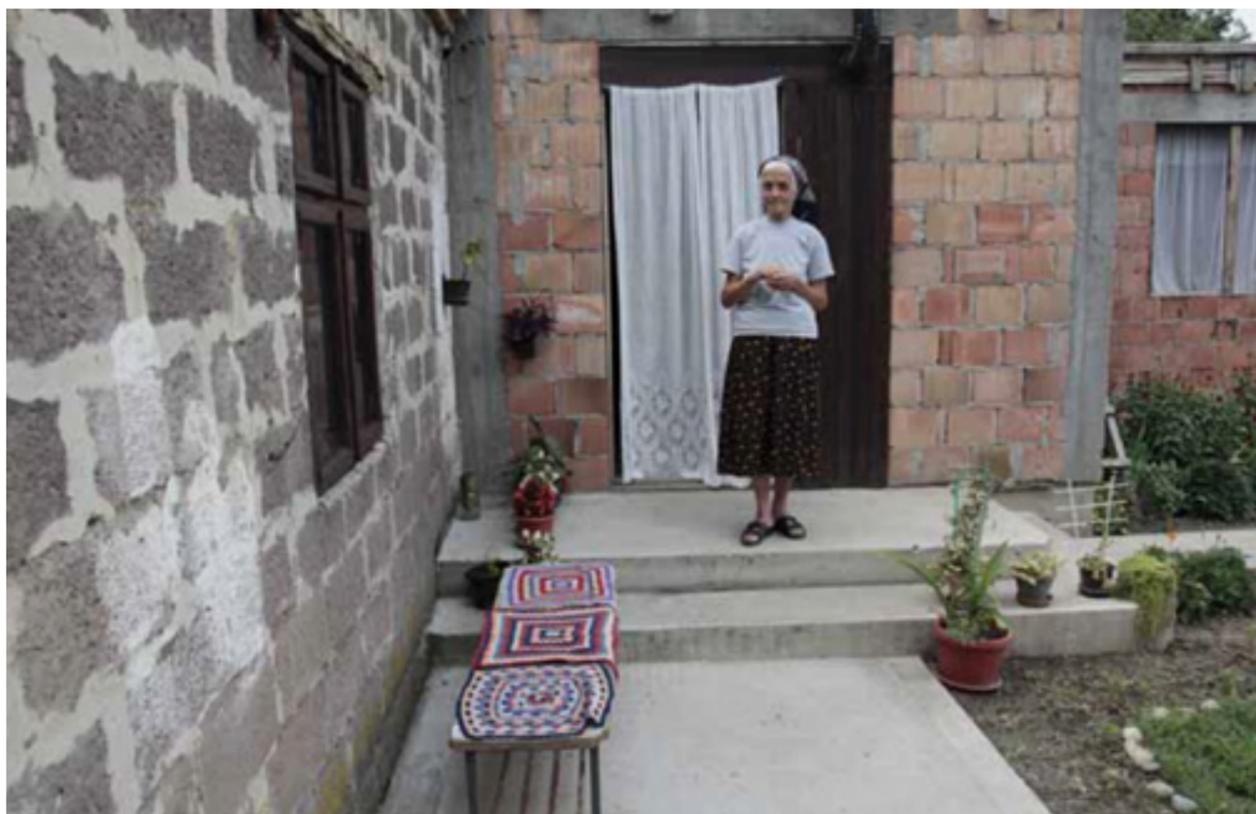
In Croatia, works for the construction of the first sub-project will start in June 2014. Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina expect to start delivery of building materials in the autumn. Montenegro will also start construction of its first sub-project before the end of 2014.

INTRODUCING RHP BENEFICIARIES

Potential beneficiaries - refugees and internally displaced persons - have been informed about the RHP, thanks to the wide information campaigns conducted by the Partner Countries since March 2013, in close coordination with UNHCR/OSCE.

Many of those families have already applied for housing assistance under the RHP and have high hopes of being selected as beneficiaries of the already-approved sub-projects. In fact, more than half of the beneficiaries (approximately 250 families) of the sub-projects which were approved in April 2013 have been selected and will hence be provided with a durable housing solution.

UNHCR and OSCE, in their role as monitors of the beneficiary selection process, have visited in cooperation with the Partner Countries refugee families in each country who are eagerly expecting the commencement of works of the already approved RHP sub-projects. Their hopes and dreams are reflected in the interviews made by UNHCR of which some snapshots are provided hereafter (for more information, please visit RHP's website at www.regionalhousingprogramme.org).



Potential beneficiary family in Pancevo, Serbia



At the outbreak of the armed conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1992, Mladen Bejat fled with his wife Saveta and their two-year-old son Marko from Sarajevo to Nikšić in Montenegro. Mladen hopes that a project implemented through the RHP could finally solve their housing problems.

"For years I applied for different housing projects, talked to people and asked for help, all without results. It seemed that luck just kept passing us by. But this time I have high hopes. I want us to finally have a feeling like we live in our home."

In Croatia, Mr Derikrava is high on the list of 35 potential beneficiaries of the RHP sub-project in the town of Korenica. As he looks at the plot of land soon to become busy with machinery and construction works, he says: "I would not wish for anyone to be a refugee. As the old saying goes, the biggest curse in life is to have and then to have not. We left with what belongings we could carry and upon return we start from scratch".



Photo kindly provided by UNHCR

In Serbia, Branko and Koviljka are but one of the thousands of refugee families who have been living in rented accommodation for more than a decade. With the deteriorating economic situation in the country, and the unemployment rate plummeting to 28% in 2013, they live far below the poverty line. They are hoping for a solution within the framework of the RHP, which will include several housing options in Serbia. "We haven't been able to pay the rent for the past five months. Luckily, the landlord, whose son is also out of work, is full of understanding and is not pressing us. He knows we always paid our dues on time", Branko says.



Photo kindly provided by UNHCR

Nenad, his then wife and a baby boy fled Glina, Croatia in 1995. They settled briefly in a small village of Koceljeva, in Serbia, where Nenad's parents joined them several days later. In search of work, the family moved to Montenegro, a year later. The three generation household today lives in Belgrade on the state assistance which Nenad gets for his medical condition and on the family pension his mother receives from Croatia. Despite the calamities that befell this family, Nenad and his mother look forward to the future and hope that they would be eligible for the RHP they have heard so much about. They intend to apply for a prefabricated house in one of Belgrade's municipalities if such a possibility emerges, as they prefer not to move the boys who have completely integrated in these surroundings.

RHP FUND

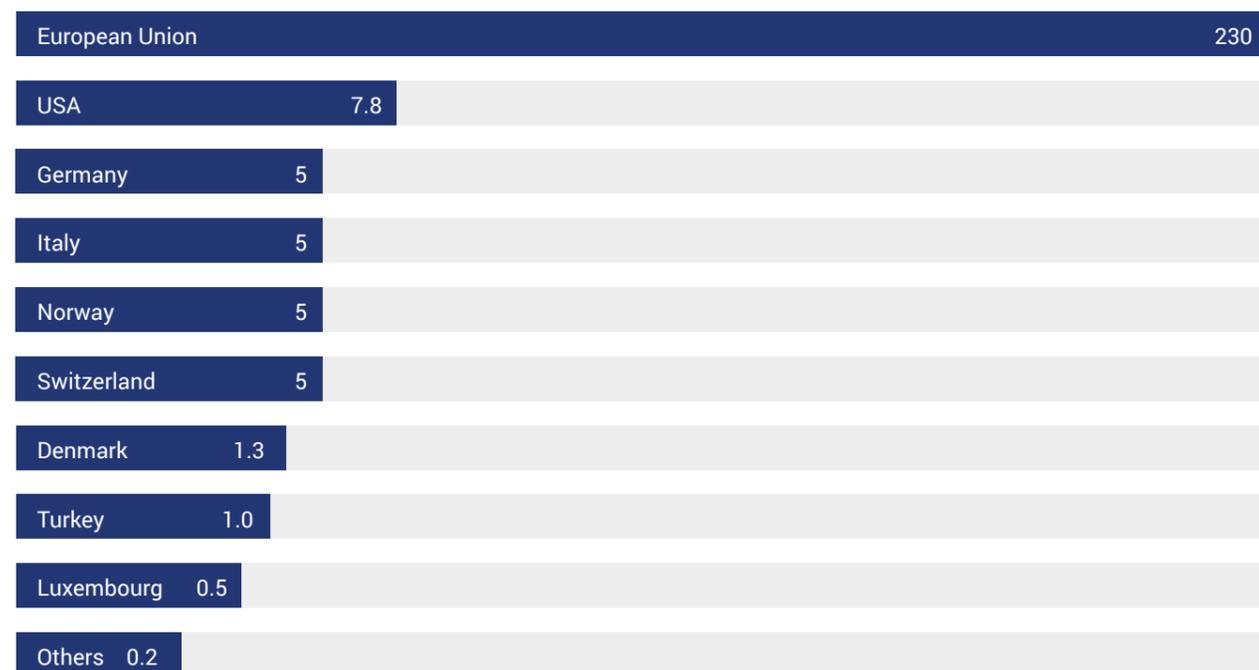
At a Donors' Conference held in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina on 24 April 2012, the international community pledged EUR 261 million in support of the RHP, of which EUR 230 million were pledged by the European Commission and EUR 31 million by a total of 13 countries: the USA, Norway, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Denmark, Turkey, Luxembourg, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and the Slovak Republic. To hold Donor contributions, the CEB set up, in coordination with the Donors, a multi-Donor fund, named the RHP Fund. At end-2013, Donors had committed EUR 114.6 million to the RHP Fund and paid in EUR 69.8 million. The European Union had committed a total of EUR 84.0 million and paid in EUR 44.5 million, making it the largest Donor.



RHP Donors' Conference, Sarajevo, 24 April 2012

Contributions pledged during Donors' Conference (Amounts in EUR milion)

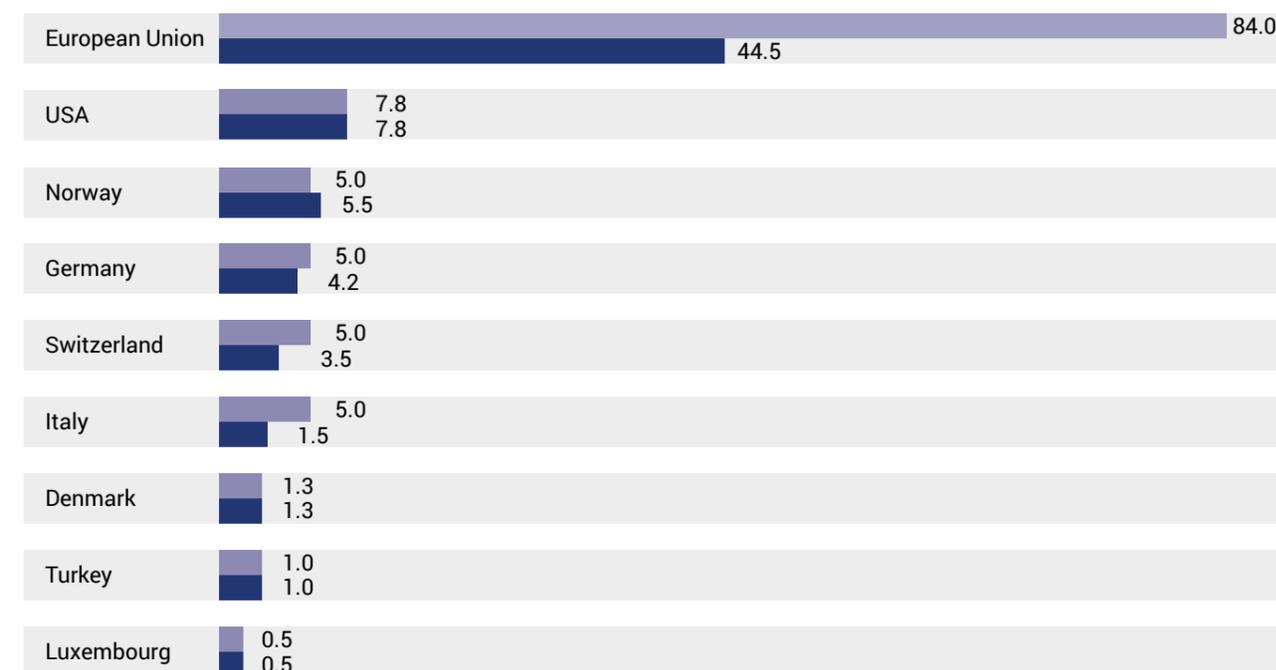
Total pledged: EUR 261.0 million



Contributions committed and paid in (Amounts in EUR million)

EUR 114.6 million committed

EUR 69.8 million paid in



RHP IN PARTNER COUNTRIES



RHP COUNTRY HOUSING PROJECT BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Total estimated cost	MEUR 101
Total national contribution	MEUR 15.2
Total amount of grants approved	MEUR 14.7
Lead Institution: Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH	
Three Project Implementation Units:	
Ministry of Refugees and Displaced Persons in Republika Srpska;	
Federal Ministry of Displaced Persons and Refugees;	
The Department of the Brcko District Government for Displaced Persons, Refugees and Housing Issues	



Current living conditions of a potential beneficiary family in BiH.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF APPROVED SUB-PROJECTS TO DATE

Name of sub-project	Date of approval of Assembly of Donors	Total Cost	Total Grant Amount	Total PC Contribution
Provision of building materials to 20 families and turnkey reconstruction assistance to 150 families	08/04/2013	€ 2 316 000	€ 2 035 000	€ 281 000
Provision of housing solutions to 780 households for return and reintegration or local integration in BiH	11/10/2013	€ 14 634 324	€ 12 634 032	€ 2 000 292



RHP COUNTRY HOUSING PROJECT CROATIA

Total estimated cost	MEUR 119.7
Total national contribution	MEUR 29.9
Total amount of grants approved	MEUR 11.6
Lead Institution: State Office for Reconstruction and Housing Care	
Project Implementation Unit: State Office for Reconstruction and Housing Care	



The building in Glina, Croatia, to be reconstructed to accommodate 75 elderly and disabled persons.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF APPROVED SUB-PROJECTS TO DATE

Name of sub-project	Date of approval of Assembly of Donors	Total Cost	Total Grant Amount	Total PC Contribution
Construction of apartment building for 29 families in the municipality of Korenica	08/04/2013	€ 1 398 211	€ 1 048 658	€ 349 553
Construction of two residential buildings in Knin for 40	11/10/2013	€ 3 165 601	€ 2 622 982	€ 542 619
Construction of a home for 75 elderly and disabled persons	11/10/2013	€ 4 831 260	€ 3 668 413	€ 1 162 847
Purchase of flats for 101 households	06/12/2013	€ 5 717 140	€ 4 287 855	€ 1 429 285



RHP COUNTRY HOUSING PROJECT MONTENEGRO

Total estimated cost	MEUR 27.7
Total national contribution	MEUR 4.2
Total amount of grants approved	MEUR 10.1
Lead Institution: Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare	
Project Implementation Unit: PROCON - National Project Implementation Unit in the field of Communal Services and Environment	



The site in Podgorica where two buildings will be constructed to provide rental housing units to 120 most vulnerable families from Camp Konik 1.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF APPROVED SUB-PROJECTS TO DATE

Name of sub-project	Date of approval of Assembly of Donors	Total Cost	Total Grant Amount	Total PC Contribution
Construction of two blocks of flats for 62 families in the municipality of Nikšić	08/04/2013	€ 2 580 000	€ 1 980 000	€ 600 000
Provision of housing to 120 most vulnerable families from Camp Konik 1	11/10/2013	€ 6 906 750	€ 6 226 622	€ 680 128
Construction of a home for 68 elderly/handicapped persons in Pljevlja	11/10/2013	€ 2 231 716	€ 1 918 572	€ 313 144



RHP COUNTRY HOUSING PROJECT SERBIA

Total estimated cost	MEUR 335.2
Total national contribution	MEUR 33.5
Total amount of grants approved	MEUR 24.5
Lead Institution: Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migration (KIRS)	
Project Implementation Unit: PIU for Research and Development Ltd	



Example of a proposed housing solution: a prefabricated house donated to a refugee family in Pančevo (financed through one of the previous programmes).

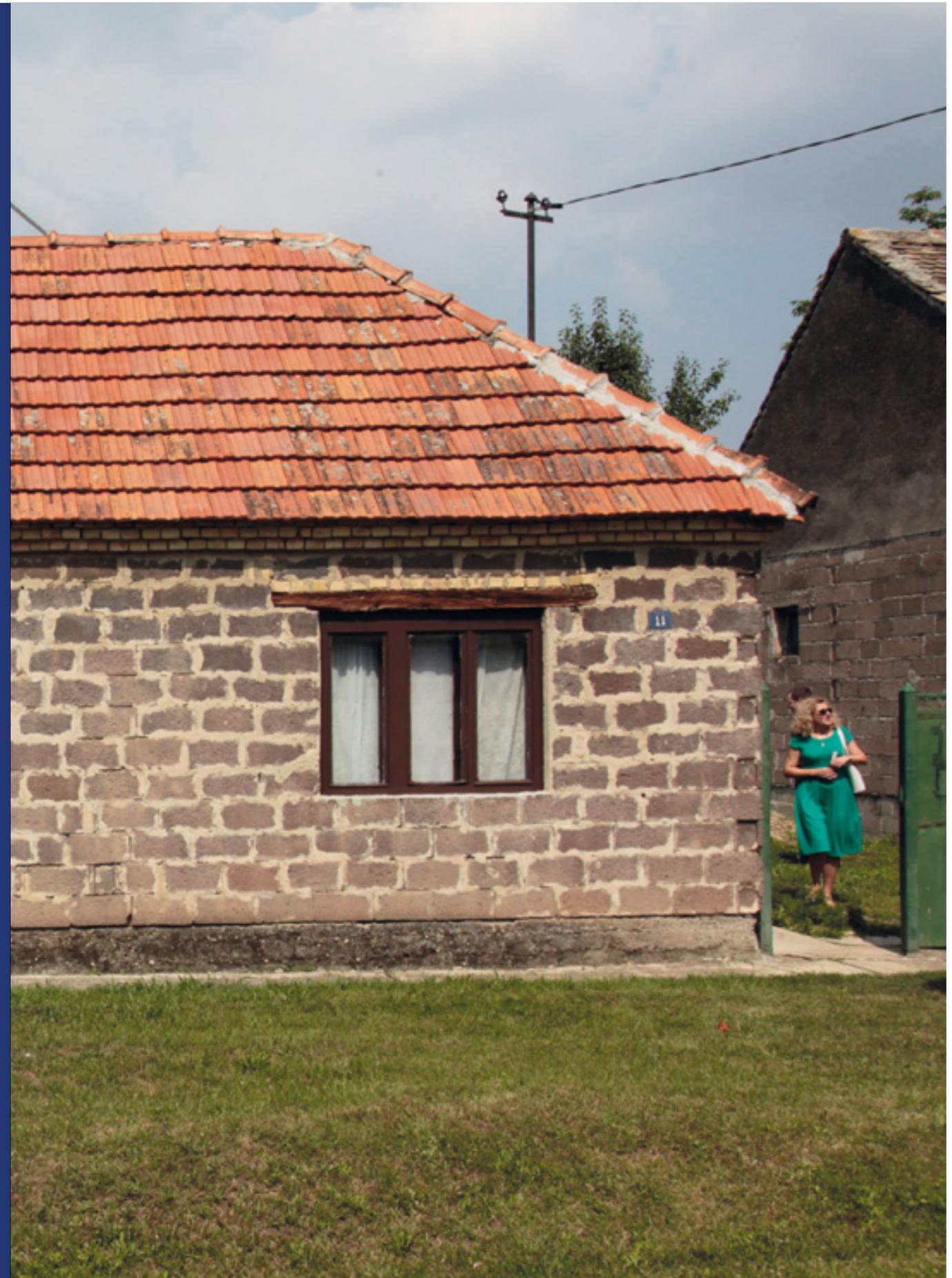
BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF APPROVED SUB-PROJECTS TO DATE

Name of sub-project	Date of approval of Assembly of Donors	Total Cost	Total Grant Amount	Total PC Contribution
Provision of 70 pre-fabricated houses and 125 packages of building materials for the	08/04/2013	€ 2 212 500	€ 1 993 000	€ 219 500
Support to 870 refugee families through four housing solutions	11/10/2013	€ 13 062 936	€ 11 560 936	€ 1 502 000
Support to 715 refugee families through four housing solutions	06/12/2013	€ 13 642 918	€ 10 963 918	€ 2 679 000

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

RHP's key to success is the strong commitment of the Partner Countries and that of the international community: the European Union, UNHCR, OSCE, CEB, the U.S.A, Switzerland as well as the other donors.

Donors, in particular the European Union as the largest contributor to this initiative, have been providing continuous support to the RHP since its very inception. Their substantial involvement and support, set to continue throughout 2014 and beyond, will be instrumental for the successful completion and lasting impact of the entire Programme.





Bosnia and Herzegovina



Republic of Croatia



Montenegro



Republic of Serbia

This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The views expressed herein are those of the CEB and can therefore in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the Commission.

www.regionalhousingprogramme.org

The Regional Housing Programme is financed and supported by the International Community



The Regional Housing Programme was set up to offer durable housing to 74,000 vulnerable individuals who became refugees or displaced persons following the 1991-1995 conflicts on the territory of former Yugoslavia. The RHP is to be implemented over five years with the support of the international community.
