RHP FUND
ANNUAL REPORT
2016
APRIL 2017

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Picture on the cover page:
Homes financed by the RHP and RHP beneficiaries
The Regional Housing Programme (RHP) was set up to provide durable housing solutions to vulnerable refugees and displaced persons following the 1991-1995 conflicts on the territory of former Yugoslavia. The RHP is implemented by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia and mostly financed by the international donor community.

The main donor is the European Union. The other donors are the United States of America, Germany, Norway, Italy, Switzerland, Denmark, Turkey, Luxembourg, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and the Slovak Republic.

www.regionalhousingprogramme.org
RHP FACTS AND FIGURES

3,000 vulnerable persons now have decent homes

4 partner countries implementing the programme: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia

More than 20,000 vulnerable persons will have a home thanks to ongoing projects

14 donors who pledged during Sarajevo donors’ conference in 2012

3 implementing partners
EUR 271 MILLION
PLEDGED BY DONORS, OF WHICH EUR 232 MILLION
BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

EUR 155 MILLION
GRANTS APPROVED

EUR 31 MILLION
NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION
BY PARTNER COUNTRIES

EUR 54 MILLION
GRANTS DISBURSED
A member of one of the 24 returnee families who received keys to their re/constructed homes in Derventa, Bosnia and Herzegovina.
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Forewords by CEB and European Union
2016 was a milestone year for the Regional Housing Programme (RHP), which showed a substantial increase in the provision of housing units: by end-2016, more than three thousand persons had a new home, four times more than the previous year. At long last, these people enjoy dignified living conditions and can start rebuilding their lives.

They are not the only ones who have found themselves in a difficult situation. During the 1990s armed conflicts in Yugoslavia, more than two million people were displaced, with thousands of vulnerable persons unable to return to their place of origin or integrate into their host communities. Rather, they have spent the last twenty years living in ramshackle homes.

The RHP aims to bring this protracted displacement situation to a close. A joint initiative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia, the Programme provides homes to some of the most vulnerable displaced persons.

Current plans foresee new homes for at least twenty-two thousand persons, but the overall number of beneficiaries may very well be even higher. In 2016, the European Union pledged to raise its contribution to EUR 232 million, while Germany increased its funding to EUR 6 million.

The Programme’s benefits are far-reaching. By tackling the displacement issue, the RHP fosters reconciliation between communities and countries. It can also serve as a blueprint for integration initiatives in Europe, at a time when migrants and refugees are arriving in record numbers.

The RHP can fulfil its objectives only if all stakeholders remain fully committed to the Programme. The four partner countries must continue to focus on implementation. They will need sustained support from the international community. As for the CEB, it will continue to work hard to ensure that the RHP is a success. The Bank remains fully committed to overseeing the smooth running of the Programme, assisting in particular the partner countries in the implementation of their respective housing projects.
In 2016, the Partner Countries continued to make good progress on the Programme, despite a challenging environment. By the end of the year, already 3,000 vulnerable people had a new home, thanks to the joint efforts of the Partner Countries and the international stakeholders.

In recognition of the progress achieved over the past years, the European Union announced in December 2016 its intention to raise its contribution to the Programme to EUR 232 million. This additional funding cements the status of the European Union as the largest donor to this initiative, with approximately 85% of the funds.

More importantly, it signals the European Union’s strong support to the final beneficiaries of the Regional Housing Programme as well as to the dialogue among Partner Countries. The European Union and the Western Balkans region have a common history and identity. They also share a joint future. The Programme is helping make this joint future a reality.

By addressing the plight of refugees and displaced persons, the Programme fosters reconciliation between states and communities. By getting the Partner Countries to work together, it paves the way for broader cooperation.

The Regional Housing Programme is in line with the WB6 agenda of increased integration between the countries of the Western Balkans. It is helping transform the region into a secure, stable and prosperous region. It enables the Partner Countries to progress on their path towards European Union accession.

This is what the people of the region want and it is what we should all aim for. The European Union will continue to be actively involved in the Regional Housing Programme in the coming years. But ultimately, its outcomes depend firstly on the commitment of all the actors involved in the implementation. I encourage the leaders of the Partner Countries to maintain full ownership of this initiative and continue to provide all the necessary support. I trust that they will make the Programme a success.
The construction works on a multi-apartment building for 40 families in Knin, Croatia will be completed by the end of June 2017.
Main Achievements in 2016 and Outlook for 2017
WHAT IS THE REGIONAL HOUSING PROGRAMME?

As a consequence of the armed conflicts in the 1990s, over three million people were displaced both within and beyond the borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia. Over the past two decades, sustained efforts by the four affected states as well as support from the international community have enabled the majority of those affected to return home or find other durable solutions. Despite these considerable efforts, almost half a million people remain displaced throughout the region.

The Regional Housing Programme (RHP) – a joint initiative by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia (the Partner Countries) – was set up to address this protracted displacement situation. Its aim is to provide sustainable housing to 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. In the Belgrade Declaration of 7 November 2011, the RHP Partner Countries committed themselves to the principle of respect for the rights of refugees and internally displaced persons and to the mutual obligation to closely coordinate activities in order to ensure truly durable solutions, either through voluntary return and reintegration or local integration of the displaced.

The RHP consists of four individual Country Housing Projects, each implemented at country level. Contrary to most other housing projects in the region, the RHP is not just about providing housing. It is also about fostering the institutional capacity of the Partner Countries to deliver sustainable housing solutions not just to RHP beneficiaries but to other population groups with unmet housing needs. Thanks to its regional character, the RHP encourages the four Partner Countries to co-operate closely in solving common problems, thereby improving neighbourly relations and fostering security and stability in the region.

Key figures on the RHP Fund in EUR million, at end 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grants disbursed to Partners Countries</th>
<th>Grants approved by Donors</th>
<th>Funds contributed by Donors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
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3 000 VULNERABLE PERSONS NOW HAVE DECENT HOMES

In 2016, the RHP delivered a record number of homes to vulnerable families. By year end, 1 000 vulnerable families, or close to 3 000 persons, in the four Partner Countries had been provided with suitable housing solutions. This represents a four-fold increase in RHP beneficiaries compared with the previous year.

All Partner Countries continued to make good progress in RHP implementation during 2016. Over 400 village houses were purchased and some 100 building material packages delivered to beneficiaries in Serbia. Bosnia and Herzegovina completed the reconstruction of over 100 houses, while more than 90 flats were either purchased or constructed in Croatia and Montenegro.

2016 also saw the inauguration of six construction sites in the four countries. By end 2018, an additional 6 900 housing units are planned to be completed.

OVER 20 000 PERSONS WILL HAVE DIRECTLY BENEFITED FROM THE RHP BY 2018

Demonstrating steadfast support for the Programme, RHP Donors approved several new housing sub-projects during 2016. Based on the RHP sub-projects approved to date, in total, around 7 900 families, or over 20 000 persons, are expected to see their living conditions improved by 2018.

Four new sub-projects were approved in 2016: two for Montenegro, one for Serbia and one for Croatia. In addition, three extensions to already on-going sub-projects were approved, two for Bosnia and Herzegovina and one for Serbia. In total, new grant approvals amounted to EUR 22 million, bringing the overall amount of grants approved for RHP sub-projects since the Programme’s inception to EUR 155 million.

EUR 85 MILLION IN ADDITIONAL PLEDGES ILLUSTRATES CONTINUED DONOR SUPPORT

Donors also demonstrated their support for the Programme by pledging additional funds. In December 2016, the European Union announced that it would complete its initial pledge by contributing a further EUR 84 million to the Programme over the period 2017-2018. These funds will bring the European Union’s total contribution to the RHP to EUR 232 million, thus confirming its status as the largest donor to the Programme. Germany also contributed an additional EUR 1 million in 2016. These new funds will allow the approval of several new sub-projects in 2017 and 2018, thereby enabling the Partner Countries to deliver several thousands of additional housing solutions by end 2020.

SERBIA HAS BEEN AWARDED THE LARGEST SHARE OF GRANTS, AMOUNTING TO EUR 87 MILLION OR 56% OF ALL APPROVALS. BosNIA AND HERZEGOVINA HAS BEEN ALLOCATED THE SECOND LARGEST AMOUNT, WITH EUR 38 MILLION (25%), FOLLOWED BY MONTENEGRO WITH EUR 16 MILLION (10%) AND CROATIA WITH EUR 14 MILLION (9%). THESE FIGURES ARE COMMENSURATE TO THE HOUSING NEEDS ORIGINALLY EXPRESSED BY THE PARTNER COUNTRIES IN THE “JOINT REGIONAL PROGRAMME” DOCUMENT ELABORATED IN NOVEMBER 2011.
EUR 31 MILLION IN DISBURSEMENTS DEMONSTRATES ACTIVE IMPLEMENTATION

Disbursements to the Partner Countries increased significantly in 2016. EUR 31 million was disbursed during the year, almost twice the amount paid out in 2015. This significant rise in disbursements underscores the fact that, following a thorough preparation phase, the Partner Countries are now successfully delivering and require additional funds to finance implementation works.

Of the total disbursed amount of EUR 54 million, EUR 26 million (49%) has been disbursed to Serbia, followed by Croatia with EUR 10 million (19%), Montenegro with EUR 9 million (17%) and Bosnia and Herzegovina with EUR 8 million (15%).

Disbursements to Partner Countries
(per year, in EUR million, at end December 2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Disbursement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY OF HOUSING SOLUTIONS

The Regional Housing Programme provides an integrated platform aimed at ensuring durable housing for vulnerable refugees or displaced persons. The Partner Countries, supported by the donor community, the UNHCR, the OSCE, the CEB and NGOs, have already taken important steps to enhance the sustainability of the housing solutions delivered to RHP beneficiary families.

With the delivery of homes now advancing rapidly, in 2016 RHP stakeholders agreed to step up efforts to ensure that the housing delivered can indeed contribute to the improvement of livelihoods in the long term. In this context, it was decided to have an integrated approach, focusing on technical, social and economic sustainability. Housing provided within the RHP should be connected to basic infrastructure, facilitate social integration and have the potential to contribute to economic activity.

A workshop focusing on RHP sustainability was organised in November 2016 in Montenegro and included participants from the European Union and the U.S. as the main Donors, the Partner Countries, the UNHCR, the OSCE and the CEB.
VISIBILITY ACTIVITIES SHOWCASE COUNTRY ACHIEVEMENTS AND DONOR SUPPORT

2016 saw a clear intensification in the RHP’s visibility and communication activities. The purpose of these activities is to showcase the achievements of the Partner Countries and to highlight the sustained support provided by the Donors.

Several visibility events were held in all four countries to mark the delivery of housing units. These events were well covered by the local/regional media, thanks to the active participation not only of the Partner Country representatives but also the RHP Donors, the UNHCR, the OSCE and the CEB. A revamped RHP website was launched as well as a new LinkedIn profile. A number of RHP-related publications were issued by the CEB as well as several short films, available on the RHP YouTube channel and website.

Two RHP photo exhibitions were organised in December 2016 in Belgrade and Zagreb, respectively. The first one, “New Home”, was organised in collaboration with the Delegation of the European Union to Serbia and the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of Serbia, and the second one, “Rebuilding lives”, jointly by the UNHCR and the Croatian Central State Office for Reconstruction and Housing Care.
Regional Housing Programme

OUTLOOK FOR 2017

A PLAN TO DELIVER 3 000 HOUSING UNITS

2017 will be a key year for the RHP as over 3 000 housing units are scheduled to be completed and delivered to eligible beneficiaries in all Partner Countries.

The following sub-projects are scheduled to be completed in 2017:

• twelve apartment buildings for 120 beneficiaries in Konik, Montenegro;
• a home for 68 elderly/handicapped persons in Pješević, Montenegro;
• two apartment buildings for 40 families in Knin, Croatia;
• a home for 75 elderly/disabled persons in Glina, Croatia;
• a residential building for 21 families in Benkovac, Croatia;
• an apartment complex in Ovoča, Belgrade, providing housing to 235 families.

In addition, in 2017, Serbia is planning the delivery of over 800 building material packages and 200 pre-fabricated houses, the purchase of over 400 village houses and the construction of a further 120 flats. Bosnia and Herzegovina foresees the reconstruction/construction of over 800 individual houses and the construction of some 150 flats.

Delivery of housing units per year
(2014 - 2016 actual; 2017 - 2018 forecast)

As shown in the graph above, the number of housing units to be delivered in 2017 is forecast to increase three-fold when compared to housing unit delivery in 2016. A similar level of over 3 000 housing units delivered is expected to be attained in 2018 as well.

Boosting Programme visibility

The RHP’s visibility and media relation campaigns will be enhanced in 2017. A large number of events are planned in all four countries to celebrate the delivery of keys to RHP beneficiaries. Several photo exhibitions, publications and short films will also be produced. They will present to a wider audience RHP beneficiaries and their lives before and after access to their new homes.

Launching second phase of the RHP

As indicated above, the new contribution of EUR 1 million from Germany and the planned new contribution from the European Union, amounting to EUR 84 million, will make it possible for the Donors to approve several new sub-projects in 2017 and 2018. These approvals will result in several thousands of additional housing solutions to be delivered by end 2020. To kick off this second phase of the Programme, in early 2017 the Partner Countries, in cooperation with the CEB, the UNHCR and the OSCE, will work on identifying new projects to be supported by the Donors.

Following up on Mid-Term Review recommendations

Following the RHP Mid-Term Review and the Mid-Term Evaluation in 2015, RHP Donors, in consultation with the other RHP stakeholders, prepared the so-called “Recommendations to the on-going and future implementation of the Regional Housing Programme”. In 2017, the CEB will continue to follow up on the implementation of these recommendations. Likewise, in compliance with their respective mandates, the UNHCR and the OSCE are working closely with the Partner Countries to ensure that the most vulnerable beneficiaries are selected and that the housing solutions provided under the RHP are accompanied by adequate sustainability measures.
3
RHP
Added Value
Regional Housing Programme

Enhanced cooperation between Partner Countries contributes to lasting reconciliation

Cooperation between the Partner Countries is actively encouraged by the RHP Donors, the UNHCR, the OSCE and the CEB. The Partner Countries are brought together at various meetings and training workshops which facilitate the sharing of experiences and good practices and visibly promote the RHP’s regional dimension.

This cooperation offers two major benefits. Firstly, it contributes to the successful implementation of the Programme as it enables the Partner Countries to find synergies in their work and to learn from each other’s experiences. Secondly, and just as importantly, close cooperation on concrete projects such as the RHP fosters good relations between the four Partner Countries and contributes to stability in the region. All stakeholders unanimously agree that the RHP has had a significant impact on improving the regional cooperation, security and reconciliation of people that were on different sides of the armed conflict 20 years ago.

A practical example of this close regional cooperation is the cross-border verification of beneficiaries. Cross-border verification is a critical aspect of the beneficiary selection process: the Partner Countries rely on each other in verifying that the applicants of one Partner Country have not been granted housing assistance in another Country and/or in confirming their status and vulnerability. This is a vast and labour-intensive task; however, the Partner Countries have already undertaken thousands of checks, thus enabling this crucial process to make considerable progress in 2016.

“Significant progress achieved in the implementation of the RHP in our countries during the course of 2016 can be attributed, among other things, to the excellent cooperation among the Partner Countries, which favours strengthening mutual trust. Along with a vision and responsibility of overcoming the consequences of the past, we have created a unique mechanism - a regional process - which ensures cooperation between the countries of origin and the countries of reception in numerous matters that affect the refugee population.”

Semiha Borovac, Minister of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina

“It is essential to preserve the regional character of this Programme not only because the projects implemented in the four Partner Countries are intertwined, but because this Programme is an integral part of a broader political process which contributes to the improvement of good neighbourly relations and stability in the region.”

Nikola Mažar, State Secretary, Central State Office for Reconstruction and Housing Care of the Republic of Croatia

“It is with great pleasure that we give emphasis to the successful and comprehensive cooperation with the other Partner Countries, which have invested joint efforts in their commitment to improve living conditions of the most vulnerable beneficiaries in the region.”

Budimirka Đukanović, RHP National Coordinator, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare of Montenegro

“The RHP is a shining example of restoring a climate of trust in the region. It also contributes to the building of partner relations, with the aim of finding solutions to the existing problems in all four Partner Countries. An immense task is in front of all RHP Partner Countries - finding solutions to the refugee problems after 25 years of life on the margins of the society.”

Vladimir Cucić, Commissioner for Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia
Regional

Close cooperation between the Partner Countries reinforces security, stability and reconciliation in the region.
Strengthened operating standards promote best practice implementation

The Partner Countries benefit from extensive training, management tools and improved operating standards.

The RHP Lead Institutions, Project Implementation Units (PIUs) and local governments benefit from tailor-made training sessions which strengthen their capacities to implement projects. For example, in 2016, nearly 500 municipal officials from over 60 municipalities throughout Serbia were trained on various topics related to project implementation.

The on-the-job training provided to the implementing structures is complemented by specific RHP management tools. These tools consist, for instance, in Gantt Charts, a Procurement Tracking System, Risk Registers and the MMIS (Monitoring Management Information System). They allow close follow-up of all the operational and financial aspects of implementation and early identification of risks.

Finally, RHP sub-projects are implemented following strict Master Technical Documentation and other standards/templates. These standards ensure compliance with certain minimum requirements on issues such as urban-technical conditions, building permits, building standards and environmental issues.

This combination of training, management tools and standards again offers two benefits. First, it helps ensure that projects are implemented according to best practices. Indeed, the Partner Countries’ capacities in project planning, implementation and monitoring are much improved. Second, it helps guarantee that the housing stock provided within the context of the RHP offers a quality living environment to beneficiaries and is durable.

In terms of beneficiary selection, the UNHCR and the OSCE support the Partner Countries by monitoring the beneficiary selection process to ensure that only the most vulnerable receive homes in the context of the RHP. These institutions also play an important role in overseeing that the housing solutions provided are sustainable. The close cooperation that has been built up over the recent years between RHP stakeholders will be valuable when monitoring the RHP’s sustainability aspects.

The above-mentioned on-the-job training, the development of RHP management tools and the compliance with standards is made possible thanks to the technical assistance financed by the European Union and embedded in the Partner Country implementing structures.
200 municipalities implement RHP projects in the region

1,600 staff members of national implementing institutions received training

40 training sessions organised in the Partner Country implementing institutions

State-of-the-art Management Tools used by the Partner Countries, including Monitoring Management Information System, Procurement Tracker, Gantt Charts etc.

9 Partner Country institutions participated in trainings

500 RHP contracts (works, supplies, services) signed by the Partner Countries
RHP differs from other donor-funded initiatives by the fact that it is implemented by the Partner Countries themselves, rather than by third parties such as non-governmental organisations.

The four Partner Countries are responsible for implementing their respective Country Housing Projects through their national implementing structures. For instance, municipalities are actively engaged in RHP implementation in all Partner Countries, notably by providing land for the construction of residential buildings, covering the permit/connection fees and managing the buildings once completed.

Implementation by the Partner Countries themselves brings two key benefits:

First, it fosters ownership of the Programme, which is key to the sustainability of the housing solutions in the long term. By creating jobs in the construction sector, the RHP also impacts positively on the local job markets.

Second, RHP implementation at the country level enhances the capacity of the Partner Countries to manage housing projects. Thanks to this enhanced capacity, the Countries will be in a better position to address the housing needs of their populations in the future.

Unique

RHP is unique as it is a vast infrastructure programme implemented by the Partner Countries themselves
4

Progress in Partner Countries
The Regional Housing Programme is of crucial importance for the common resolution of the regional displacement problem, which contributes to the strengthening of good neighbourly relations and the reinstatement of mutual trust and economic growth, all aimed at reaching our common priority goal – higher stability and security in the region whose future is inside the European Union.

To date, Bosnia and Herzegovina has received grant payments amounting to BAM 16.2 million or EUR 8.1 million, which allowed the Lead Institution and the Project Implementation Units, in cooperation with municipalities and towns, to initiate the implementation of four approved sub-projects. These sub-projects are being implemented in 73 local communities across Bosnia and Herzegovina, 43 of which are in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 29 in Republika Srpska and 1 in Brčko District.

The progress achieved in Bosnia and Herzegovina within the RHP is demonstrated in the data, showing that, by the end of the last year, 118 houses had been built under this Programme, while the plan for this year includes the construction and reconstruction of 994 housing units, namely 846 houses and 147 apartments, and 830 housing units (465 houses and 365 apartments) will be completed in the first half of 2018.

Successful implementation of the Regional Housing Programme and the resolution of the problem of refugees and internally displaced persons in the region will not only solve this painful years-long regional problem, but also increase people’s willingness to stay in this region, which is in our common interest.

Precisely in this context, we are grateful to our colleagues from Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro for their successful cooperation and mutual support, thanks to which this Regional Housing Programme has been so successful. This unity and partnership serves as a model of cooperation in the region, which is visible and fruitful both in the daily work and at the events organised throughout the region, where we have the pleasure to meet our returnees and share their joy.
Key Facts and Figures

- 4 Number of sub-projects approved
- 6,000 Number of beneficiaries (estimate)
- €38.4 million Grants approved
- €8.1 million Grants disbursed
- €6.9 million Total national contribution

Deliveries by Housing Modality

1,942 Housing units

- Provision of building material
- Construction of flats
- Reconstruction of houses

Sub-projects' Locations

- **Sub-project BiH1**
  Provision of building materials to 20 families and turnkey reconstruction assistance to 150 families

- **Sub-project BiH2**
  Provision of housing solutions to 780 households for return and reintegration or local integration in BiH

- **Sub-project BiH3**
  Construction of 512 flats in multi-apartment buildings for local integration of refugees and IDPs

- **Sub-project BiH4**
  Reconstruction of 435 family houses for the return of refugees and IDPs and construction of 45 family houses for local integration of IDPs in BiH

* Estimate

www.regionalthousingprogramme.org
Bosnia and Herzegovina: on-going sub-projects

The RHP in Bosnia and Herzegovina targets both returnees and those who wish to integrate locally, and covers three different housing modalities: the reconstruction or construction of family houses (73% of total), the construction of flats in apartment buildings (26%) and the provision of building material packages (1%).

Today, 73 local communities throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina are involved in RHP implementation. Three Project Implementation Units (PIUs), one in Republika Srpska (RS), one in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBIH) and one in the Brcko District, act as the contracting authorities in their respective territories.

Reconstruction/construction of 1 400 family houses

Two houses, in Goražde and Banja Luka, before and after the reconstruction assistance.

The provision of turnkey reconstruction assistance to returnee, refugee and IDP families is currently the most widespread housing modality that the RHP is addressing in Bosnia and Herzegovina. By end 2016, the reconstruction work had been completed on 100 houses and the plan is to finalise the work on 846 housing units in 2017, followed by 465 in 2018.

The houses are owned by the beneficiaries, and the maximum size allowed corresponds to national reconstruction standards. Beneficiaries generally receive reconstruction assistance; however, in cases of complete destruction of the pre-war house, the only choice may be new construction.

On 29 June 2016, the RHP Steering Committee members visited the town of Novo Goražde to hand over the keys to reconstructed houses to six beneficiary families. These were the first families in Republika Srpska to have received housing assistance through the RHP.

A beneficiary family in front of their old house and their new house. This 5-member family lived in a dilapidated house for several years after the war, until the municipality of Olovo (FBIH) donated the land on which the RHP-financed new house could be constructed. The family moved in in April 2016.
Construction of over 500 new apartments

The RHP sub-projects approved to date foresee the construction of over 500 new apartments throughout the country. The land is usually owned by the municipalities which sign tenancy contracts with the selected beneficiaries. By end 2016, construction activity was ongoing in nine locations throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina; 235 apartments were under construction, while the construction of 277 more is expected to start in the second half of 2017, resulting in the delivery of close to 150 new apartments in 2017 and 365 in 2018.

Provision of 20 building material packages

Building material packages can be granted to refugee families who have already commenced construction/reconstruction of their houses and have construction permits (or the process of obtaining a permit is on-going). 20 building material packages have been delivered to eligible families under the first sub-project approved in favour of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
2016 was year of a great progress in the context of providing the most vulnerable families in Croatia with sustainable housing solutions.

The first sub-project of all the Partner Countries was successfully completed. In addition to this, 30 apartments were purchased throughout the country in 2016, construction of a building for 21 families in Benkovac started in April 2016, and the construction works in Glina and Knin were implemented at the planned pace. After tender procedure finalisation, implementation of a sixth sub-project “Renovation, reconstruction or construction of 62 family houses” will start at the beginning of 2017.

The status of on-going projects shows Croatia’s full commitment and steady approach to the Regional Housing Programme, and Croatia stands ready to continue with the same effort in the future. The year 2017 will be crucial for all of us, but I am sure that all our goals will be successfully achieved by the end of 2017. Indeed, I am confident that, by the end of the year, 328 most vulnerable families will have been provided with housing solutions in Croatia.

Despite the fact that a major part of the work has already been completed, I would once more like to emphasise that the remaining needs in Croatia are still substantial and I am confident that our excellent cooperation will continue in the future.

As a regional programme and part of a wider political process, the RHP has contributed to fostering cooperation between the four Partner Countries. It has also enhanced neighbourly relations and stability in the region.

*In the upcoming period, the main focus will be put on enhancing sustainability measures in order to ensure durable housing solutions for beneficiaries, either through voluntary return, reintegration or local integration. Without due attention to the socio-cultural and economic aspects of sustainability, the RHP will not be fully successful.*

Finally, let me take this opportunity once again to thank all the Donors, without whose financial support the RHP in Croatia could not be implemented.
Key Facts and Figures

6
Number of sub-projects approved

732
Number of beneficiaries (estimate)

Grants approved
€ 14.0 million

Grants disbursed
€ 9.8 million

Total national contribution
€ 4.8 million

Deliveries by Housing Modality

328
Housing units

- Home for elderly
- Re/construction of houses
- Construction of flats
- Purchase of flats

Sub-projects' Locations

- **Sub-project HR1**
  Construction of an apartment building for 29 families in Korenica

- **Sub-project HR2**
  Construction of two residential buildings in Knin for 40 beneficiary households

- **Sub-project HR3**
  Reconstruction of a home for 75 elderly and disabled persons in Glina

- **Sub-project HR4**
  Purchase of 101 flats within and outside the Areas of Special State Concern

- **Sub-project HR5**
  Construction of a residential building for 21 families in Benkovac

- **Sub-project HR6**
  Renovation, reconstruction or construction of 62 family houses

* Estimate

www.regionallhousingprogramme.org
Croatia: on-going sub-projects

HR1 (2013): Construction of an apartment building for 29 families in Korenica

Sub-project HR1 was the first RHP project to be completed in Croatia. In September 2015, keys to 29 apartments (housing 58 persons altogether) were handed over to the beneficiary families, who are former occupancy/tenancy right holders.

HR2 (2013): Construction of two residential buildings in Knin for 40 families

This sub-project foresees the construction of two residential buildings in Knin, each with 20 housing units, to accommodate 40 vulnerable families. The beneficiaries are former tenancy right holders, a number of whom currently live in bungalows or in a reception centre in a nearby town. The works on both buildings are progressing well. Completion and the hand-over of keys is foreseen for spring 2017.

HR3 (2013): Home for elderly and disabled in Glina

The RHP sub-project in Glina encompasses the reconstruction and extension of a home for elderly and disabled refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons in order to provide them with adequate accommodation, as well as social and health care. The reconstruction works started in September 2015 and are due to be completed by spring 2017, after which the medical equipment and furniture will be installed. The facility should be ready for use in autumn 2017. In addition to housing provision, the sub-project will also offer employment for a number of persons from the local community.
HR4 (2013): Purchase of 101 flats

The first flats purchased under this sub-project were delivered to beneficiaries in December 2014. The beneficiaries are former tenancy right holders and/or residents of collective centres. The flats are located both within and outside of the Areas of Special State Concern, in locations with the greatest housing needs. As of today, 88 flats have been purchased and the remainder should be bought by autumn 2017.

HR5 (2014): Construction of a residential building for 21 families in Benkovac

Works on this building started in April 2016. It will accommodate 21 families with the status of former tenancy right holders and families from Bosnia and Herzegovina, most of whom still have refugee status in Croatia. The completion of works is foreseen for May 2017.

HR6 (2016): Renovation, reconstruction or construction of 62 family houses

This sub-project, approved in April 2016, covers the renovation, reconstruction or construction of 62 family houses damaged during the conflict in Croatia. The preparatory activities are on-going and project completion is foreseen for early 2018.
As the Lead Institution, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare hereby expresses its particular commitment to the successful implementation of the Regional Housing Programme (RHP) in Montenegro and is pleased to highlight the significant results achieved in 2016.

Completion of the construction of the apartment building in Niksic and the moving of the first 62 families into their new homes is quite certainly the most notable result to be singled out. All the beneficiaries were provided with housing units according to family structure and other needs, whereas the beneficiaries of housing units act in compliance with their defined rights and obligations pursuant to the legislation in the field of social housing. Since this is the first sub-project completed, the experiences and lessons learnt are of great significance for the future implementation of the RHP.

In 2016, Montenegro signed agreements with contractors for the following sub-projects: construction of 120 housing units in the Konik camp, a home for the elderly in Pljevlja and construction of 96 apartments in the municipality of Berane, which makes a total of three currently active construction sites to provide housing solutions to a total 284 most vulnerable refugee families. In addition, expansion of the construction site in Konik camp with 51 additional housing units was approved. In December 2016, two new sub-projects were approved for funding: the purchase of 36 apartments in Herceg Novi and the construction of 50 individual houses across Montenegro. Grant agreements for the afore-mentioned sub-projects are to be signed in the near future.

2017 will see the largest number of RHP beneficiaries moving into their new homes owing to the fact that the most comprehensive sub-project in Konik camp is scheduled for completion, and that a new institution for social protection is to be established – a home for the elderly in Pljevlja.

Moreover, Montenegro is planning to submit proposals for new sub-projects to be funded by the Regional Housing Programme: provision of construction material and also the possible additional purchase of social apartments in other municipalities in need.

In addition to housing construction, another important challenge pertains to the aspect of sustainability and to ensuring comprehensive social integration of the RHP beneficiaries, which is something we will be working on in the forthcoming period together with both national and international partners – the European Commission, the UNHCR, the OSCE and the CEB.

As we have done thus far, we will continue our successful co-operation with the neighbouring Partner Countries, thereby strengthening and encouraging regional stability and collaboration while giving incentive to similar regional initiatives and projects.

We owe special gratitude to the European Commission and to all the donors that have ensured continued funding of the RHP, thus providing additional encouragement for more efficient implementation. Furthermore, I would also like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Council of Europe Development Bank for their successful and close co-operation, as well as to the other RHP partners.
Key Facts and Figures

- Number of sub-projects approved: 6
- Number of beneficiaries (estimate): 1,800
- Grants approved: €16.0 million
- Grants disbursed: €9.4 million
- Total national contribution: €2.3 million

Deliveries by Housing Modality

- 481 Housing units
  - Construction of houses: 62
  - Purchase of apartments: 120
  - Home for elderly: 68
  - Construction of flats: 145

Sub-projects' Locations

- **Sub-project MNE1**: Construction of two blocks of flats for 62 I/DP families in Nikšić
- **Sub-project MNE2**: Provision of housing to 171 most vulnerable families from camp Konik 1 and its surroundings, through construction of 17 buildings in the city of Podgorica
- **Sub-project MNE3**: Construction of a home for 68 elderly/handicapped persons in Pijevlja
- **Sub-project MNE4**: Construction of 94 apartments for 271 persons in the municipality of Berane
- **Sub-project MNE7**: Purchase of 36 apartments in the municipality of Herceg Novi
- **Sub-project MNE8**: Construction of a minimum of 50 individual houses in various municipalities in Montenegro

* Estimate
Montenegro: on-going sub-projects

MNE1 (2013): Construction of two apartment buildings with 62 flats in Nikšić

Sub-project MNE1 was the first RHP project to be completed in Montenegro. On 20 June 2016, the keys to 62 apartments were handed over to the beneficiary families, and, by end 2016, 59 families (213 persons) had moved in. The construction works were completed on schedule, i.e. within one year.

MNE2 (2013): Construction of 171 apartments (17 buildings) in Konik

In March 2016, construction works were launched to build 120 apartments for the most vulnerable Roma families currently living in the Konik Camp. The works on the 120 flats are progressing on schedule and should be completed by August 2017. The sub-project was extended in September 2016 to cover a further 51 apartments, increasing the number of beneficiary families from 120 to 171. The additional flats are scheduled to be completed by April 2018.
MNE3 (2013): Construction of a home for 68 elderly/handicapped in Pljevlja

The home for the elderly will provide housing for 68 elderly refugees/internally displaced persons/holders of the status of foreigner with permanent or temporary residence in Montenegro. It will also provide daily care for 30 additional persons in the municipality of Pljevlja. The works started in mid-May 2016 and are progressing on schedule: the hand-over of keys is planned for October 2017.

MNE4 (2014): Construction of 94 apartments in Berane

This sub-project aims to provide housing to 94 most vulnerable families - 270 persons - currently living in two collective settlements: Rudes 1 and Rudes 2. Construction works will start in spring 2017, and the completion is foreseen for spring 2018. Berane is located in northern Montenegro and still hosts a large refugee population. This project will help meet some of their most pressing housing needs.

MNE7 (2016): Purchase of 36 apartments in Herceg Novi

This sub-project, approved in December 2016, should provide durable housing to 36 most vulnerable refugee families residing in collective centres or other types of collective temporary housing, as well as to vulnerable persons living in private accommodation. The Grant Agreement has still to be signed and completion is foreseen for 2018.

MNE8 (2016): Construction of 50 houses throughout Montenegro

This sub-project, approved in December 2016, aims to resolve the housing needs of persons who are particularly vulnerable due to their sub-standard living conditions and material hardship, and who opted for local integration. The pre-selection of beneficiary families has been completed. The Grant Agreement has still to be signed and completion is foreseen for 2018.
I am proud of the fact that we are now the largest construction site in the country and that the RHP is being implemented in as many as 117 municipalities and towns, with more than 200 commissions engaged in the beneficiary selection process.

Implementation of five sub-projects under the RHP is ongoing. Out of a total of 117 local self-governments (LSG), flat construction is planned on the territories of 49 LSGs, and the LSGs in question have provided plots and infrastructure.

I see it as an enviable result that we managed to announce public calls for a total of 3 900 housing solutions. Some 9 500 refugee families submitted applications and 2 200 families were selected.

In parallel with the abovementioned five RHP sub-projects, extension of the fourth sub-project was approved for the Republic of Serbia, encompassing selected, but not housed, beneficiaries, because of the limited number of housing solutions available.

Another key point to remember is that the Assembly of Donors, held on 1 December 2016 in Paris, approved an additional project worth EUR 9.2 million, earmarked for the purchasing of 130 flats, among other things. All this illustrates the significant progress that Serbia made in RHP implementation in 2016.

We have a big job ahead of us, which involves completion of the construction of 696 flats and the provision of over 1 000 building material packages under SRB2, SRB3 and SRB4, as well as the commencement of the construction of 1 262 flats under SRB5.

The RHP is a shining example of restoring a climate of trust and of building partner relations in the region, with the aim of finding solutions to existing problems in all four Partner Countries. All RHP Partner Countries have an immense task in front of them – finding solutions to the problems of refugees after 25 years of life on the margins of society.
Key Facts and Figures

- Number of sub-projects approved: 6
- Number of beneficiaries (estimate): 13,266

Deliveries by Housing Modality

5,200 Housing units

- Purchase of apartments
- Construction of flats
- Construction of pre-fab houses
- Provision of building material
- Purchase of village houses

Approved Sub-projects

- **Sub-project SRB1**: Provision of 64 prefabricated houses and 129 building material packages for 193 households
- **Sub-project SRB2**: Support to 870 refugee families through four different housing modalities
- **Sub-project SRB3**: Support to 715 refugee families through four different housing modalities
- **Sub-project SRB4**: Support to 1,233 refugee families through four different housing modalities
- **Sub-project SRB5**: Support to 1,712 refugee families through three different housing modalities
- **Sub-project SRB7**: Provision of minimum 490 housing solutions for beneficiaries selected under sub-projects SRB2, SRB4, SRB5

Grants approved: €86.7 million
Grants disbursed: €26.3 million
Total national contribution: €16.8 million

- 2015-2016: 703 units
- 2017E: 1,975 units
- 2018E: 2,544 units

* Estimate
Regional Housing Programme

**Serbia: on-going sub-projects**

The RHP in Serbia targets the most vulnerable refugee families who wish to integrate locally in Serbia. The sub-projects approved are split into 20 separate components, reflecting 5 different housing modalities: new construction of flats (37% of total), provision of building material packages (34%), purchase of village houses (20%), construction of pre-fabricated houses (6%) and purchase of flats (3%).

Today, 117 municipalities and towns - out of the total of 165 - actively participate in RHP implementation by providing the land for the construction of residential buildings and covering the permits/connection fees, etc. More than 200 commissions are at present engaged in the beneficiary selection process.

**Provision of over 1 700 building material packages**

Building material packages can be granted to refugee families who have already commenced construction/reconstruction of their houses and have construction permits (or the process of obtaining a permit is on-going). To-date, 230 families throughout Serbia have already received a RHP-financed building material package. In 2017, a further 900 packages should be delivered, followed by the rest – some 600 – in 2018.

**Construction of 2 000 new apartments**

As regards the sub-projects in favour of Serbia approved to date by the RHP Fund Assembly of Donors, the construction of new flats is the most important modality in terms of expected deliveries, with close to 2 000 new flats either under construction or in the pipeline. The biggest single construction project on-going at present is the construction of 235 apartments in Ovča, Belgrade, which started in September 2016 and should be finished by end 2017. The City of Belgrade is contributing considerably to this sub-project, which is part of a wider investment programme in social housing, also covering the construction of a 995 apartment complex as well as other amenities such as childcare facilities, a primary school and a wastewater treatment system. In addition, several other construction sites are on-going or about to be launched throughout the country.
The purchase of village houses is an appropriate solution for families who live in rural areas and do not possess a plot of land or any other durable housing solution. In 2016, over 400 vulnerable refugee households received RHP funding for the purchase of village houses in Serbia. In addition to the EUR 9,500 grant for the purchase, the beneficiaries can also benefit from a small grant in the amount of EUR 1,500, to finance building materials, furniture, etc. The plan is to purchase a further 500 houses in 2017 and the rest – some 180 – in 2018.

Construction of over 300 prefabricated houses

64 pre-fabricated houses were constructed in 2016 in some of the 117 municipalities involved in RHP implementation in Serbia. This housing modality is convenient for beneficiaries who already possess their own building plot but who do not have the financial resources to build a house. A further 200 pre-fabricated houses are scheduled to be constructed throughout Serbia in 2017, followed by 50 in 2018.

Purchase of 130 flats

The purchase of flats is a new housing modality that Serbia will start to implement in 2017, with the aim of delivering 130 flats to eligible beneficiaries in 2018. The advantage of this modality is its efficiency, considering that it makes use of the existing housing stock.
Statement by UNHCR and OSCE
The year 2016 was marked by an increased delivery of concrete housing solutions to the most vulnerable beneficiaries of the Regional Housing Programme (RHP) in all four Partner Countries. Moreover, it is expected that the trend of large-scale delivery of housing solutions will continue in 2017, throughout the region. This is fully in line with the projected dynamics of RHP implementation.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) are particularly pleased that the selection of beneficiaries, as an essential precondition for a truly successful implementation of the Programme, for the approved RHP sub-projects in all four Partner Countries is progressing well overall, in spite of certain challenges.

The beneficiary in the picture fled from Sunja, Croatia with her parents, brother and sister in 1995. Fourteen years later she returned to Croatia - divorced, without a job and with three children. They lived in abandoned houses, moving six times, until they received an apartment in Topusko, under the RHP sub-project HR4. In Topusko, she also found a job in the elderly nursing care and managed to enrol her 9-year old daughter in the elementary school.

© UNHCR/Darko Mihalić
As in previous years, UNHCR and OSCE continued to promote transparent, consistent, and fair implementation of the RHP in 2016, in particular in the aspects of selecting beneficiaries, as well as by assisting the Partner Countries in providing more detailed plans for the sustainability of the solutions offered by the housing projects. In that regard, our two organizations worked in very close co-operation with local authorities to ensure their active engagement in support of access to rights, social integration and employment opportunities.

Further attention is needed for the cross-border verification of the pre-selected beneficiaries, which is of vital importance for the return-related sub-projects, as is the case in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In that context, we welcome the generous decision by the RHP donors to allocate additional funds necessary for this process. Subsequently, we are pleased to note that additional capacities to perform cross-border data verification have been established in all Partner Countries, thus making this process fully operational.

At the same time, given the respective mandates, roles and responsibilities within the RHP, UNHCR and OSCE will continue to advocate with authorities at all levels to concentrate on the existing, unmet needs and established vulnerability criteria to ensure that the Programme reaches those who most require assistance, irrespective of their formal status.

The sustainability of solutions provided through the RHP still requires a systematic approach to be effectively applied in all four Partner Countries, so that known remaining needs of the most vulnerable displaced people can be addressed in a comprehensive, institutionalized manner beyond the RHP.

It is within the responsibility of the RHP Partner Countries to implement the sustainability measures related to (re)integration of the Programme’s beneficiaries, and thus to develop efficient mechanisms that should enable them to reach systematic solutions and design projects to help the most vulnerable among the returnees, refugees and the internally displaced people.

In line with the mandate and existing capacities, UNHCR and OSCE will continue to work closely with the Partner Countries in designing the methodology and tools of monitoring socio-cultural sustainability of the RHP projects.

To that end, in 2016 we organized a regional workshop on sustainability aspects in the RHP, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders. The Partner Countries’ readiness to be proactively engaged in applying the agreed measures was clearly expressed during that workshop. We were pleased to note the shared notion of the RHP as a comprehensive, needs-based solutions Programme, requiring systematic realization of all of its elements.

Over the course of 2017, UNHCR plans to refocus its engagement with persons displaced during the armed conflicts in South Eastern Europe in the 1990s, while at the same time maintaining the relevance and the strategic support to the responsible institutions of the RHP Partner Countries, with whom it has nurtured a strong partnership over the last two decades. UNHCR will continue to provide support and expertise, working with the responsible authorities at all levels, but will also overview selective cases on the ground, in support of interventions at the policy level. In that regard, the UN Refugee Agency will ensure that relevant, systematic data remains available, so that the most vulnerable people could be better identified in accordance with the agreed, needs-based selection criteria for assistance.

For its part, the OSCE will continue to provide its political and technical support, assistance and advice to the authorities at all levels towards the implementation of the RHP, in line with its engagement thus far. The organization will continue to do this in close co-operation with all stakeholders, and in line with its mandates and available resources. In executing its role OSCE will continue to act jointly with UNHCR on all aspects of RHP implementation.

The pace of the RHP implementation in the next years should be maintained. We call on the Partner Countries to further focus their efforts on proposing mature sub-projects, including examination of the social integration and employment opportunities for the beneficiaries, in order to be able to duly meet the 2020 completion deadline. This also concerns the process of selecting RHP beneficiaries, which must be thoroughly planned and carried out in timely fashion, so that the RHP fulfils its ultimate objective – to help the neediest of the displaced people in the region to rebuild their lives in safety and dignity. Here, too, UNHCR and OSCE will assist the Partner Countries wherever feasible.

Finally, UNHCR and OSCE would like to further encourage RHP donors to continue supporting the RHP, the Partner Countries and, ultimately, the Programme’s beneficiaries. In that context, we particularly welcome the announcement at the end of 2016 by the RHP’s main donor, the European Union, that it would further support the RHP, fulfilling its pledge made at the Donors’ conference in April 2012, in its entirety.
This family from Obrenovac, Serbia, is one of the 400 who have received a village house thanks to the RHP.
Statements by Main Donors
Crucial Donor Support

To raise funds for the RHP, an international Donors’ Conference was held in Sarajevo on 24 April 2012. During this conference, the European Union, the U.S., Germany, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, Denmark, Turkey, Luxembourg, Cyprus, Romania, the Slovak Republic, the Czech Republic, Hungary and the former United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Ms Sadako Ogata, pledged EUR 261 million in support of the RHP. Subsequently, the U.S., the EU and Germany have pledged a further EUR 7 million, EUR 2 million and EUR 1 million respectively, bringing the total amount of funds pledged to EUR 271 million.

### Contributions committed to the RHP Fund

*(in EUR million, at end 2016)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country/Committee</th>
<th>Contributions Committed (in EUR million)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>European Union</td>
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<td>U.S.</td>
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<td>Switzerland</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>0.5</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total committed:</strong></td>
<td><strong>EUR 161 million</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RHP Donors are involved not only financially but also operationally. Thus, the EU and the U.S. closely monitor the progress of the RHP, in particular within the context of the Technical Committee. With the support of the UNHCR and the OSCE, RHP Donors help ensure that the Programme effectively provides sustainable housing solutions to those refugees and displaced persons most in need.
COMPLEMENTARY MEASURES

As a complement to the RHP, the RHP Donors also finance additional sustainability-linked measures on a bilateral level. For instance, the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration of the U.S. Department of State funds a non-governmental organisation, the Catholic Relief Services (CRS), which assists the RHP through a project named “Supporting sustainable reintegration of returnees in Bosnia and Herzegovina”. It also provides small grants to assist refugees through the Julia Taft Refugee Fund.

Likewise, Switzerland finances a Migration and Development programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The programme contributes to the economic development of the country by fostering the engagement of the diaspora in local initiatives.
The Regional Housing Program (RHP) is an integral part of U.S. government efforts to help people displaced by the wars in the Balkans and improve regional reconciliation and cooperation among countries in the region.

This year I was fortunate to meet with beneficiaries of the RHP whose lives had been transformed and improved as a result of the hard work of everyone involved in this program. I am even more excited that thousands more will be able to move into new or upgraded homes in 2017.

But our work is not over. As we enter the second and last phase of the RHP, we must redouble our efforts to ensure that the housing solutions provided are sustainable. This effort will require coordination across all levels of government and society to ensure that the beneficiaries have access to basic infrastructure such as water and electricity, to services such as health and education, and to opportunities to become economically self-reliant.

As we enter this last phase, we encourage all of our partners and stakeholders to ensure that the most vulnerable displaced find shelter solutions through the RHP.

The United States has contributed $20 million to the RHP and will continue to support programs that provide beneficiaries legal and livelihood assistance. We look forward to working with the Partner Countries and the other key stakeholders including the Council of Europe Development Bank, UNHCR, and the OSCE in this final and critical phase of the RHP.
In 2012, the four Partner Countries, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia, together with an international community of donors provided important momentum for overcoming the consequences of the Yugoslav wars in the 1990s.

Building on a Donor Conference held in Sarajevo, the Regional Housing Programme Fund was set up in Paris on 30 November 2012. This Programme finally tackled the issue of creating suitable living space for the refugees from the Yugoslav wars who were still living in precarious conditions so many years after the end of the conflict.

I am delighted to note that, four years on and, I don’t want to deny, despite initial teething problems, the Programme has developed very successfully and is now powering ahead and meeting its targets.

*Germany was so convinced by the progress made last year that it increased its 2012 pledge of EUR 5 million by a further EUR 1 million in 2016.*

Once the Regional Housing Programme has been completed in a few years, we will not just have a situation where tens of thousands of refugees and internally displaced persons are finally living in decent housing but, as an added bonus, Partner Countries will have at their disposal structures and capabilities which they will be able to use for future housing programmes. The Regional Housing Programme is thus an important factor when it comes to healing for good the wounds of the past in Partner Countries.
Italy has been, since the very beginning, supportive to one of the pillars of the Sarajevo Process on Refugees and internally displaced persons: the Regional Housing Programme (RHP). Besides filling a financing gap and stepping up the provision of housing solutions to vulnerable groups such as refugees and internally displaced persons, the RHP brings value added in buttressing Regional stability.

Through the strengthening of cities and local authorities’ capacities for design, adoption and enforcement of housing policies, the Programme is enhancing an effective approach to address temporary and structural needs arising from migration flows and favoring integration, especially in a Region particularly affected by this phenomenon.

*The governance of the initiative, comprising Steering Committees open to all stakeholders, has facilitated a productive dialogue and coordination among Partner Countries and Donors, on an equal footing: a best practice and an extraordinary example in the Western Balkans landscape.*

Overcoming initial difficulties due to constraints in the cross-border verification of the refugee status, the RHP provided an unique opportunity to strengthen mutual trust between partner and donor countries. The process of establishing PIUs has enhanced capacity development. As a result, improved standard procedures, upgraded quality content of construction works and increased responsibility by the local authorities, are elements of success.

With the delivery of hundreds of housing units to beneficiaries in all Partner Countries the RHP is now almost at a close, and I would express my satisfaction for the results achieved so far and for the future outcomes to be reached, thanks to the strong commitments of CEB, UNHCR and OSCE. A special mention to Partner Countries, which increased their ownership by establishing and sustaining a fruitful dialogue among themselves and with the donors.

My wish is that the mechanism which has been established be viewed as a best practice and inspire other legal and regulatory frameworks in the social housing sector in the Western Balkan Region.
Following a thorough preparatory phase, the Regional Housing Programme is finally starting to produce visible results. We are now able to assess the progress in the Partner Countries.

Norway is delighted to see that 2016 has brought real progress by the Partner Countries in the implementation of the Programme. The disbursement of grants to the Partner Countries has significantly increased compared to previous years.

The figures are indeed becoming interesting, confirming this positive trend.

Since April 2013, the RHP Fund Assembly of Donors has approved more than 20 grant applications from the Partner Countries amounting in total to EUR 155 million, to provide housing solutions to nearly 8 000 households or 22 000 beneficiaries.

To date, Serbia has been awarded the largest share of grants amounting to EUR 86.7 million or more than half of all approvals.

We need to maintain the momentum by focussing on implementation. Still, we can observe shortcomings in the programme, which need to be addressed in the next stage of the RHP. Norway is very much looking forward to actively participating in the next stage of the RHP.
The Regional Housing Programme is an important element of the Swiss cooperation with the Western Balkans. Planning, assessing, and implementing the RHP sub-projects includes a continuous learning process for all partners and donors.

The structure of the programme and its regional approach requires donor coordination and collaboration; it promotes and supports sharing of experiences and learning from each other, be it Partner Countries or donors, across and beyond national borders.

Switzerland is a bilateral donor to five Western Balkan countries and has concluded Migration Partnerships with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and Serbia. The Swiss cooperation focusses on strengthening capacities and democratic institutions, the development of citizens’ oriented local governments providing quality services, socio-economic development and employment measures, health care, water infrastructure and environment, and migration governance.

Swiss interventions build upon well-established relations with key actors at all levels of government, civil society, the private sector and other - bilateral and multilateral - donors.

Financial means are limited. Smooth implementation of approved RHP sub-projects remains a priority, while donors are requested to contribute to strengthening local ownership and capacities, and to appropriately include the Regional Housing Programme in their own cooperation initiatives.
7

Appendices
1 - List of Approved Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Sub-project No.</th>
<th>CEB Ref. No.</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Total cost (in EUR)</th>
<th>Grant amount (in EUR)</th>
<th>National contribution (in EUR)</th>
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<td>1 Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>BiH1</td>
<td>9101</td>
<td>Provision of building material packages to 20 families and turnkey reconstruction assistance to 150 families</td>
<td>7 379 815</td>
<td>61 673 655</td>
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<td>2 Croatia</td>
<td>HR1</td>
<td>9201</td>
<td>Construction of apartment building for 29 families in the municipality of Korenica</td>
<td>1 398 211</td>
<td>1 048 658</td>
<td>349 553</td>
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<td>3 Montenegro</td>
<td>MNE1</td>
<td>9301</td>
<td>Construction of two blocks of flats providing housing to 62 families in the municipality of Niksic</td>
<td>2 580 000</td>
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<td>4 Serbia</td>
<td>SRB1</td>
<td>9401</td>
<td>Provision of 64 pre-fabricated houses and 129 packages of building materials for the benefit of 193 families</td>
<td>2 212 500</td>
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<td>5 Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>BiH2</td>
<td>9102</td>
<td>Provision of housing solutions to 780 households for return and reintegration or local integration in BiH (1)</td>
<td>45 570 546</td>
<td>39 012 724</td>
<td>6 557 822</td>
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<td>6 Croatia</td>
<td>HR2</td>
<td>9202</td>
<td>Construction of two residential buildings in Knin for 40 families</td>
<td>15 634 234</td>
<td>13 634 032</td>
<td>2 000 292</td>
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<td>7 Croatia</td>
<td>HR3</td>
<td>9203</td>
<td>Reconstruction and extension of home for 75 elderly and disabled people in Glina</td>
<td>3 475 781</td>
<td>2 587 037</td>
<td>888 744</td>
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<td>8 Montenegro</td>
<td>MNE2</td>
<td>9302</td>
<td>Provision of housing to 171 most vulnerable families from Camp Konik 1 (2)</td>
<td>4 259 039</td>
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<td>MNE3</td>
<td>9303</td>
<td>Construction of a home for 68 elderly in Pljevlja</td>
<td>6 906 750</td>
<td>6 226 622</td>
<td>680 128</td>
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<td>10 Serbia</td>
<td>SRB2</td>
<td>9402</td>
<td>Support to 870 refugee families - Sub-Project II</td>
<td>19 360 058</td>
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<td>HR4</td>
<td>9204</td>
<td>Purchase of flats for 101 eligible beneficiaries</td>
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<td>4 287 855</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Serbia</td>
<td>SRB3</td>
<td>9403</td>
<td>Support to 715 refugee families - Sub-Project III</td>
<td>13 062 936</td>
<td>11 560 936</td>
<td>1 502 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>YEAR 2014</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assembly of Donors meeting of 23/06/2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Serbia</td>
<td>SRB4</td>
<td>9404</td>
<td>Support to 1 233 refugee families - Sub-Project IV (3)</td>
<td>13 642 918</td>
<td>10 963 918</td>
<td>2 679 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assembly of Donors meeting of 20/11/2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>BiH3</td>
<td>9103</td>
<td>Construction of 512 flats in multi-apartment buildings for refugees and IDPs in BiH (4)</td>
<td>88 151 605</td>
<td>71 427 836</td>
<td>16 723 769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Croatia</td>
<td>HR5</td>
<td>9205</td>
<td>Construction of a residential building for 21 families in Benkovac</td>
<td>4 841 941</td>
<td>69 666 644</td>
<td>2 007 110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Montenegro</td>
<td>MNE4</td>
<td>9304</td>
<td>Construction of 94 apartments in the municipality of Berane</td>
<td>17 397 433</td>
<td>17 397 433</td>
<td>3 553 558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Serbia</td>
<td>SRB5</td>
<td>9405</td>
<td>Support to 1 712 refugee families - Sub-Project V</td>
<td>13 062 936</td>
<td>11 560 936</td>
<td>1 502 000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>YEAR 2015</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Assembly of Donors meeting of 26/03/2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>BiH4</td>
<td>9104</td>
<td>Reconstruction/construction of 480 houses for the return and local integration of refugees and IDPs</td>
<td>9 620 371</td>
<td>8 569 651</td>
<td>1 050 720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Sub-project No.</td>
<td>CEB Ref No.</td>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>Total cost (in EUR)</td>
<td>Grant amount (in EUR)</td>
<td>National contribution (in EUR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>YEAR 2016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>14 443 530</td>
<td>13 479 562</td>
<td>963 968</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assembly of Donors on 14/04/2016 (by written procedure)</td>
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<td>2 666 670</td>
<td>2 000 000</td>
<td>666 670</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 Croatia</td>
<td>HR6</td>
<td>9206</td>
<td>Renovation, reconstruction or construction of 62 family houses</td>
<td>2 666 670</td>
<td>2 000 000</td>
<td>666 670</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assembly of Donors meeting of 01/12/2016</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11 776 860</td>
<td>11 479 562</td>
<td>297 298</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Montenegro</td>
<td>MNE7</td>
<td>9307</td>
<td>Purchase of 36 apartments in the municipality of Herceg Novi</td>
<td>1 065 305</td>
<td>918 007</td>
<td>147 298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Montenegro</td>
<td>MNE8</td>
<td>9308</td>
<td>Construction of minimum 50 individual houses in various municipalities in Montenegro</td>
<td>1 544 694</td>
<td>1 394 694</td>
<td>150 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 Serbia</td>
<td>SRB7</td>
<td>9407</td>
<td>Provision of minimum 490 housing solutions for beneficiaries selected under sub-projects SRB2, SRB4 and SRB5</td>
<td>9 166 861</td>
<td>9 166 861</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>186 005 321</td>
<td>155 150 704</td>
<td>30 854 617</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) The Assembly of Donors approved on 1 December 2016 an EUR 1 million increase in the grant amount for this sub-project (original grant amount: EUR 12 634 032).
(2) The scope of the sub-project was extended by 51 additional apartments in August 2016, as a result of savings (original scope: 120 apartments).
(3) The Assembly of Donors approved an extension to the scope of the sub-project on 14 April 2016, from 661 to 1 233 housing units. The grant amount was increased by EUR 6 044 663 (original grant amount: EUR 10 614 891).
   At the same time, the national contribution was increased from EUR 1 372 860 to EUR 2 007 110.
(4) The Assembly of Donors approved on 1 December 2016 an EUR 1.5 million increase in the grant amount for this sub-project (original grant amount: EUR 12 343 875). The national contribution was increased from EUR 2 027 412 to EUR 3 553 558.
2 - RHP Coordination and Governance Structure

3 principles:
- high stakeholder ownership
- strong operational coordination
- close Donor oversight.

The RHP Steering Committee and the RHP Fund Assembly of Donors are chaired on a permanent basis by the Commission and by another Donor on an annual rotation basis. From January 2016 to December 2016, the co-chair was Germany.

The CEB’s role within the framework of the RHP is threefold:

- it manages the RHP-related Donor contributions;
- it assists the Partner Countries in preparing and implementing their Country Housing Projects; as part of this role, the CEB also supervises the Technical Assistance, funded by the Commission;
- it facilitates coordination between RHP stakeholders and ensures appropriate RHP visibility.
**RHP Coordination Structure**

**RHP Steering Committee**
- Oversee the progress of the RHP
- Donors
- Partners Countries
- UNHCR
- OSCE
- CEB
- At least twice a year

**Regional Coordination Forum**
- Facilitate coordination regarding RHP implementation
- Partners Countries
- EU
- UNHCR
- OSCE
- CEB
- Three to four times a year

**RHP Fund Governance Structure**

**Assembly of Donors**
- Approve grant applications
- Donors
- CEB
- At least twice a year

**Technical Committee**
- Assess grant applications
- Donors who contributed at least EUR 5 million
- CEB
- At least twice a year
3 - Audited Statement of the RHP Fund (January – December 2016)
Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB)

Independent Auditor’s Report
Account No 001023291101/001023291102/001023291103/001023291104/001023291105/001023291106 in the name of RHP Fund prepared for the period from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016
Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB)

55, avenue Kléber
75116 Paris

Independent Auditor’s Report

Accounts No 001023291101/001023291102/001023291103/001023291104/001023291105/001023291106 in the name of RHP Fund prepared for the period from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016

We have audited the accompanying statement of movements on accounts No 001023291101/001023291102/001023291103/001023291104/001023291105/001023291106 in the name of RHP Fund for the period from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016 of Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) and the notes describing the basis of preparation and the general accounting principles used (“the Note”) together “the Statement”). The Statement has been prepared by management using the basis of preparation described in the Note.

Management’s Responsibility for the Statement

Management is responsible for the preparation of this Statement in accordance with the basis of preparation described in the Note, for determining the acceptability of the basis of accounting, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the Statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors’ Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Statement based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Statement is free from material misstatement.
An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the Statement. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the statement, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the entity’s preparation of the Statement in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity’s internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates, if any, made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the Statement.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the Statement for the period from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016 is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the basis of preparation described in the Note.

Basis of Preparation

The Statement is prepared to provide information to the donors. As a result, the Statement may not be suitable for another purpose.

Paris La Défense, 13 March 2017

KPMG Audit
A division of KPMG S.A.

Pascal Brocard
Partner
Appendix to the Independent Auditor’s report

Statement of movements on Accounts No 001023291101/ 001023291102/ 001023291103/ 001023291104/ 001023291105/ 001023291106 in the name of RHP Fund prepared for the period from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016.
### Council of Europe Development Bank (CEDB)

**Independent Auditor’s Report**

Accounts No: 001023291107/001023291102/001023291103/001023291104/001023291105/001023291106 in the name of RHP Fund Prepared for the period from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016

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**RHP Fund Country Account Maturity Profile (as of December 31, 2016)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Balance (CHF)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31/12/2016</td>
<td>100,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Detailed breakdown of balances and transactions for each month is provided in the attached report.
Notes to the statement

Basis of Preparation

The accompanying statement of movements on following RHP Fund accounts:

- RHP – Fund Regional Account (Account N° 001023291101)
- RHP – Fund Sub- Regional Account (Account N° 001023291102)
- RHP – Fund country account – BIH (Account N° 001023291103)
- RHP – Fund country account – HRV (Account N° 001023291104)
- RHP – Fund country account – SRB (Account N° 001023291105)
- RHP – Fund country account – MNE (Account N° 001023291106)

for the period from January 1st, 2016 to December 31, 2016 has been prepared in accordance with Articles 2 and 3 of the General Conditions of the Regional Housing Programme Fund (the “General Conditions”).

In accordance with these General Conditions, the Accounts will be debited with:

- payments for providing support in the form of grants;
- the management fee in accordance with Paragraph 3.6 of the General Conditions;
- the costs of the audit of the statements of the RHP Fund in accordance with Paragraph 3.8 (b) the General Conditions;
- the costs of recovery proceedings in accordance with Paragraph 3.4(e) of the General Conditions;
- other activities approved by the Assembly of Donors, such as regular audits in the Partner Countries as well as the RHP mid-term review and independent evaluations of Country Housing Projects (CHP).

The terms of the management fee due to the CEB are provided in the Article 3.6 of the General Conditions. The CEB receives a management fee corresponding to 2.5 per cent of the total amount of contributions paid into the RHP Fund.

In accordance with the General Conditions, the Accounts will be credited with:

- contributions made by donors pursuant to articles 2.2 and 2.3;
- interest accrued on the Fund Resources in accordance with article 3.7 as amended by the means of a temporary waiver dated 26 October 2016;
- amounts recovered under proceedings taken pursuant to article 3.4(c).

General accounting principles used

This statement is prepared on the cash receipts and disbursement basis. On this basis, revenues are recognized when received rather than earned and expenses are recognized when paid rather than when incurred.
The Regional Housing Programme (RHP) was set up to provide durable housing solutions to vulnerable refugees and displaced persons following the 1991-1995 conflicts on the territory of former Yugoslavia. The RHP is implemented by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia and mostly financed by the international donor community. The main donor is the European Union. The other donors are the United States of America, Germany, Norway, Italy, Switzerland, Denmark, Turkey, Luxembourg, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and the Slovak Republic.

www.regionalhousingprogramme.org