Upon the break-up of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the 1990s, the Republic of Serbia gave refuge to nearly 618,000 refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. It was one of the largest exoduses since World War Two. There are approximately 25,000 refugees living in Serbia today, with the decrease in number resulting from their integration within the Republic of Serbia. While the majority of refugees opted to stay and permanently settle in Serbia after acquiring citizenship, a small number returned, and the remainder decided to move to other countries.

During all these years, the Republic of Serbia has been providing housing for the most-vulnerable refugee families in a concerted manner, financed from budget and donor funds. However, the funds available were disproportionate to the substantial needs. Serbia therefore played an important role in promoting a regional initiative that resulted in the establishment of the Regional Housing Programme (RHP). At end-March 2023, the RHP had already provided housing to 6,894 most-vulnerable refugee families in Serbia.
The Regional Housing Programme (RHP) was established 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, Switzerland, Italy, Denmark, Türkiye, Luxembourg, Spain, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and the Slovak Republic.

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