

WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2019

RHP Beneficiaries and Stakeholders Celebrate World Refugee Day in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina

On 20 June 2019, RHP donors, Partner Countries and international stakeholders celebrated World Refugee Day together with beneficiaries in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.



In Serbia, RHP stakeholders gathered together in Kamendin, in the municipality of Belgrade, to hand over the keys to new apartments for 270 beneficiary families. This is the biggest RHP building constructed to date, with a total cost of EUR 11 million, out of which EUR 8 million is financed by the RHP Fund and EUR 3 million by the City of Belgrade.

Both the RHP donors and the representatives of the international community shared a message from Ivica Dacic, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia, thanking the beneficiary families for their patience: “You have all been waiting patiently not only these two years for the construction works to be finalised, but you have also spent 20 years in refuge, without a roof over your heads.”



In Sarajevo, the World Refugee Day celebrations were dedicated to the beneficiaries of the Regional Housing Programme. The EU Delegation hosted an event, in cooperation with the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNHCR, OSCE and the CEB, where RHP donors and local and international organisations had the opportunity to directly discuss with the beneficiaries the impact that the RHP has had on their lives.

Following the event, a TV show was recorded at the BHTV studio, where three RHP beneficiary families presented their life stories. The TV show, together with the latest RHP film “Here to stay”, was subsequently broadcast on the BHTV channel.

[See short clips
on the two events here...](#)

Implementation Highlights

HANDING OVER OF THE 1000TH RHP HOME CELEBRATED IN MOSTAR, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



On 28 August 2019, in Mostar, keys were handed over to the 1000th beneficiary family of the Regional Housing Programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Under the project BiH4, since November 2018, 49 individual houses have been reconstructed in Mostar alone. Jozo Rajic, beneficiary of the 1 000th RHP housing unit in BiH, returned to his home in the village of Grabovica near Mostar, following 26 years of displacement. Thanks to the RHP, his home, which previously lay in ruins, has now been reconstructed, making the return of the family a reality.

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KEYS HANDED OVER TO 20 FAMILIES IN VRNJACKA BANJA, SERBIA



On 3 August 2019, another celebration took place in Vrnjacka, Banja, Serbia, marking the moving in of 20 beneficiary families (sub-project SRB4). The construction works, worth EUR 600 000, started in October 2017 and were completed in March 2019. “Numerous institutions and people are involved in this big project, and we are here today thanks to their dedication and commitment,” said First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia Ivica Dacic, adding that the RHP is a true example of mutual support and cooperation between the European Union and the Republic of Serbia.

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CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW RHP BUILDING STARTS IN VUKOVAR, CROATIA



On 30 July 2019, RHP stakeholders assembled in Vukovar to celebrate the launch of the construction of a residential building for 21 RHP beneficiary families. Nikola Mazar, State Secretary at the Central State Office for Reconstruction and Housing Care stated: “68% of the funds allocated for this project are donor funds, which will be used to take care of the most vulnerable persons, to be selected in accordance with the applicable procedures and UNHCR criteria. In 400 days, we expect the construction works to be finalised and we will then meet each other here again, with our beneficiaries.”

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REGIONAL HOUSING PROGRAMME DELIVERS 20 APARTMENTS FOR REFUGEES IN UB, SERBIA



On 6 July 2019, the RHP stakeholders celebrated in Ub, Serbia, the delivery of 20 apartments to RHP beneficiaries. The apartment building was financed under the RHP sub-project SRB5. “We are here to celebrate life and your new beginning in the safe future, towards which we all are working,” said First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia Ivica Dacic, highlighting Serbia’s firm commitment to the RHP and the wider EU accession process.

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FIRST RHP BUILDING IN BRCKO DISTRICT HANDED OVER



On 6 June 2019, a celebration took place in Brcko, Bosnia and Herzegovina, to hand over the keys to new homes to eight beneficiary families. This is the first ever RHP building completed in the Brcko District. The Minister for Human Rights and Refugees of BiH Semiha Borovac pointed out the uniqueness of the project, because, for the first time – thanks to IPA funds and the Igman Initiative – household appliances and basic furniture had also been provided to the most vulnerable families.

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KEY TO NEW HOMES DELIVERED TO 20 FAMILIES IN GORAZDE, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



On 22 May 2019, keys for new homes were handed over to 20 beneficiary families in Gorazde, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Gianluca Vannini, Head of Operations of the EU Delegation to BiH: “A lot has been done thanks to the efforts and commitment of all parties within the RHP supported by the European Union. However, in order to integrate families into their communities, challenges such as access to education, social services and employment opportunities remain to be addressed. Our help does not stop here”.

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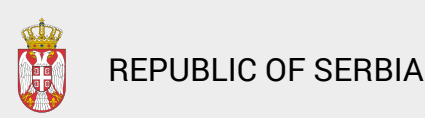
NEW HOMES DELIVERED TO 30 BENEFICIARY FAMILIES IN KLADOVO AND NEGOTIN, SERBIA



On 12 May 2019, keys to 30 RHP-financed apartments in Kladovo and Negotin were handed over by Ivica Dacic, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia; John Young, Chief of UNHCR representation in Serbia, and Sasa Nikolic, President of the Kladovo Municipality. Mihajlo Dronjak, a RHP beneficiary, said: “I have spent most of my life – more than 25 years – in Kladovo. This is where my children were born. They are grown-ups today – students, like me when I fled. We have moved six times. Today, I can finally say that myself and my family will have our own address.”

[See the link for a short clip on the event...](#)

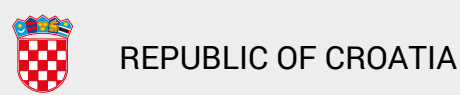
Meet the RHP Beneficiaries



TANJA AND DUSKO KRAJISNIK, LOZNICA, SERBIA

Tanja and Dusko Krajisnik were already married when they fled their hometown of Zenica in 1992 after the war broke out. Dusko went to Prijedor, while Tanja went to Zvornik, together with their four-year-old daughter Maja. After spending several war years apart, they reunited in Loznica, which has been their home for the last twenty years and the place where their son Marko was born. Before the war started, Tanja was a stay-at-home mother, while Dusko worked in mining.

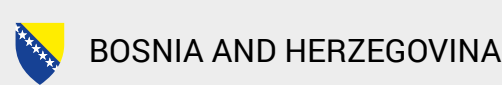
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DUSAN AND BRANKA JANJIC, SLJIVOVAC, CROATIA

Dusan was born in the small village of Sljivovac, in the municipality of Vrgin Most, Croatia. He lived with his parents and siblings in an old family house surrounded by a big forest, in the hills of Sisak-Moslavina County. In his twenties, Dusan left for Germany, where he worked as a construction worker for a couple of years. When he returned, he married and began a family of his own, but continued to share the old house with his parents.

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JANJA PIREL, HADZICI, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Janja Pirel was born in Hadžići, near Sarajevo, in 1947. When she was 18 years old, she married and had two children. Between 1973 and 1992, she lived in her house with her husband and their two children. In order to escape the war in Sarajevo, Janja and her family fled to Croatia. When she decided eight years ago to move back to Sarajevo, where she “was born, raised her children and had neighbours“, she applied for the house reconstruction assistance under the Regional Housing Programme.

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RHP Meetings



RHP FUND ASSEMBLY OF DONORS AND STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD IN PODGORICA

Podgorica, 18 June 2019 – The 14th meeting of the RHP Steering Committee and the 18th meeting of the RHP Fund Assembly of Donors took place in Podgorica, Montenegro. The RHP governance bodies convened to take stock of RHP’s progress and follow up on the strategy to ensure sustainable impact and the successful completion of the RHP in 2021. Today, assistance has reached approximately 5 000 vulnerable families, a figure which is expected to more than double by end 2021. To this end, partners agreed that implementation should be further enhanced.

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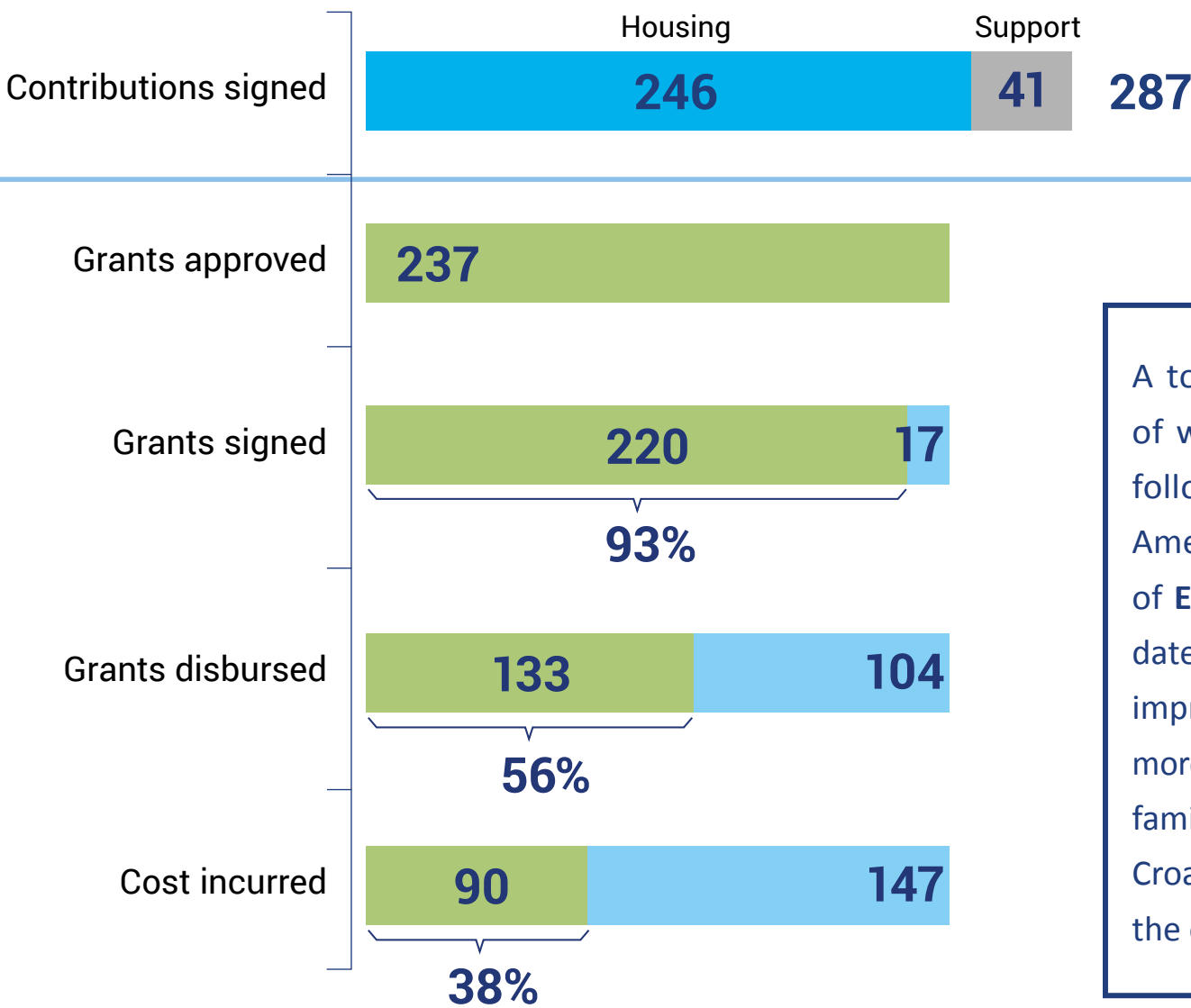


RHP ACHIEVEMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNT DISCUSSED AT RHP LEGACY WORKSHOP

Vienna, 10 May 2019 – An RHP Legacy Workshop, organized by the CEB and hosted by the OSCE, brought all RHP stakeholders together to discuss RHP achievements and lessons learnt. The Legacy Workshop was opened by the Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, Ambassador Marcel Peško. The objective of the event was to allow the RHP family to reflect on the RHP experience to date and draw policy recommendations that can inform future programmes in the area of social / refugee housing in the Balkan region and beyond.

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RHP Fund Main Figures (in EUR million)



A total of 15 donors, the largest of which is the European Union, followed by the United States of America, have contributed a total of **EUR 287 million** to the RHP to date. These grants will significantly improve the housing conditions of more than **11 000** vulnerable refugee families in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia by the end of 2021.

RHP Visibility



REGIONAL HOUSING PROGRAMME FEATURED ON BHT1 ON WORLD REFUGEE DAY

20 June 2019 – To mark the occasion of the World Refugee Day, a special edition of the programme “In Medias Res”, which was aired on the national television channel “BHT1” in Bosnia and Herzegovina, brought together representatives of RHP beneficiaries, donors and implementers in BiH.

The programme featured as guests Semiha Borovac, Minister for Human Rights and Refugees of BiH; Khaldoun Sinno, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Anne Christine Eriksson, Head of the UNHCR Regional Office, in addition to RHP beneficiaries Janja Pirel, Damir Barucic and Branko Glisic.

Representatives of the OSCE and the Catholic Relief Services also joined to discuss issues related to the selection of beneficiaries and the socio-economic support they have received.

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REGIONAL HOUSING PROGRAMME SELECTED TO BE SHOWCASED AT THE PARIS PEACE FORUM IN NOVEMBER 2019

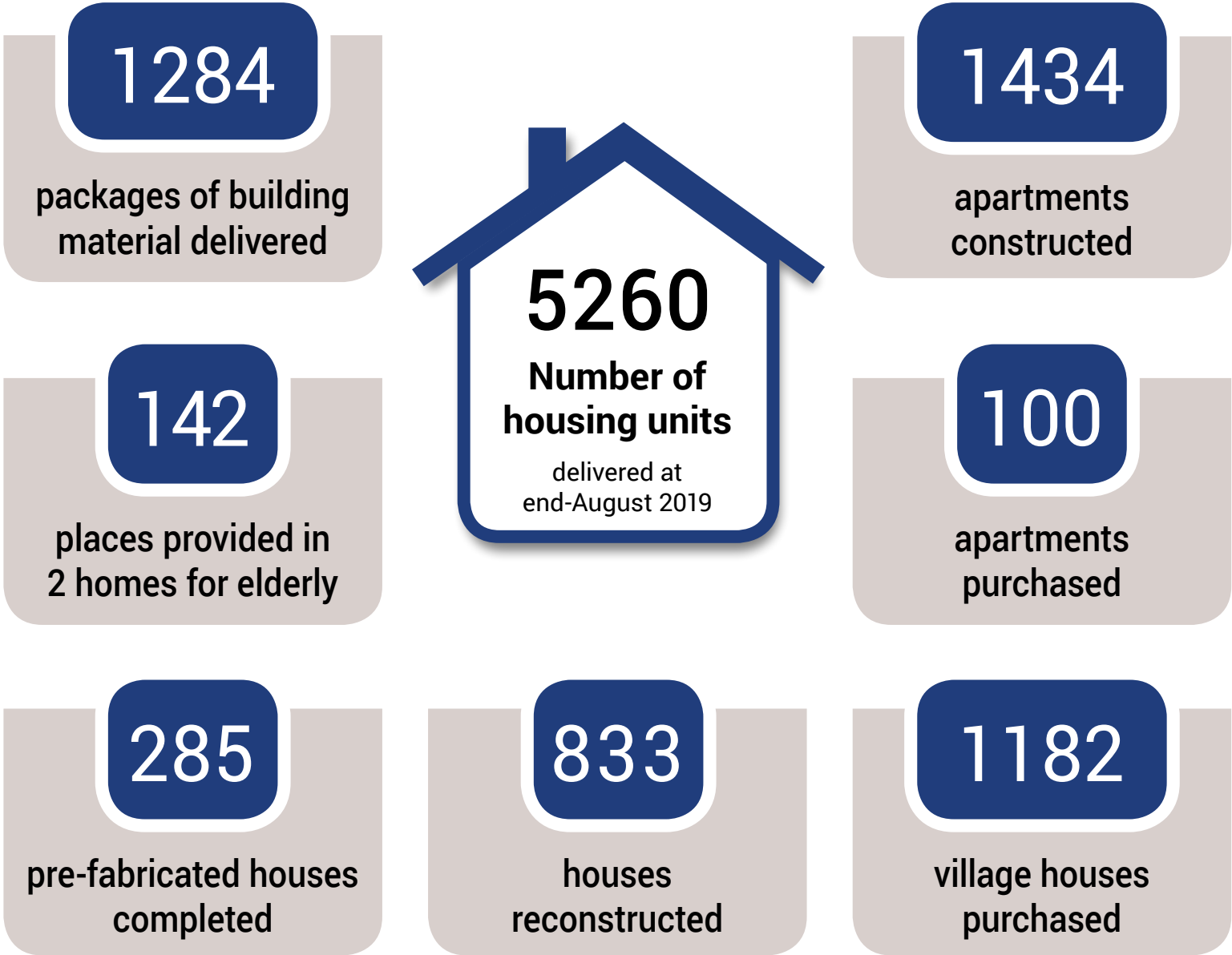
Paris, 24 June 2019 – We are proud to announce that the Regional Housing Programme will be showcased at the Paris Peace Forum on 11-13 November 2019. The Forum is held every year in Paris with the aim of placing global governance and multilateralism at the top of the international agenda. Event participants get the opportunity to discuss global governance issues and cooperate on solutions.

The Forum is led by a wide panel of actors of global governance, such as states, international organisations, NGOs, companies, foundations, philanthropic organisations, development agencies, religious groups, trade unions, think tanks, and universities. For its second – 2019 – edition, the Paris Peace Forum has received more than 700 project submissions from 115 countries in response to its Call for Projects.

The RHP has been selected under the theme “Development”. For more information, please see: www.parispeaceforum.org 2019

[Read more...](#)

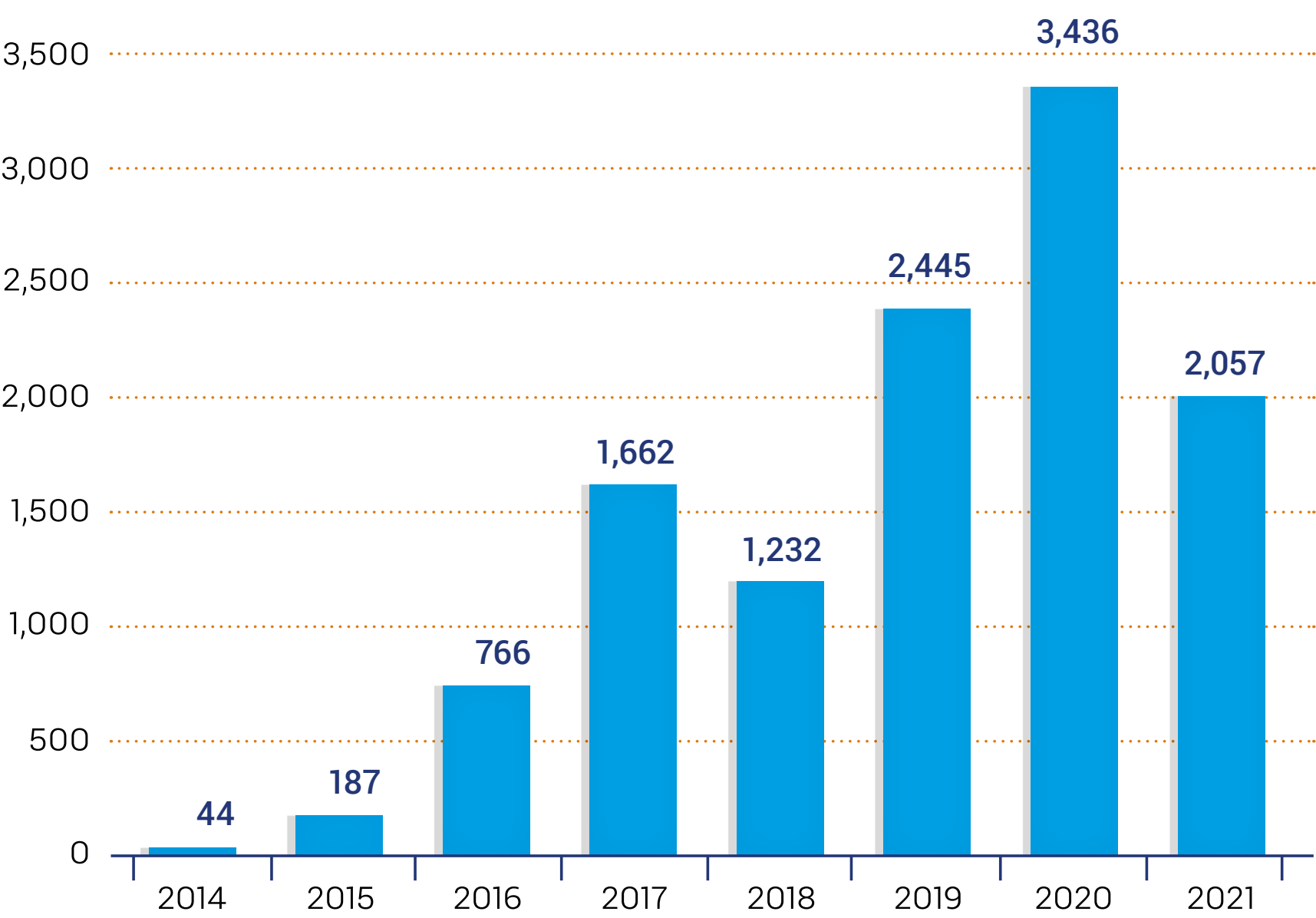
Homes Delivered 2019



Delivery of Housing Units Per Year

Delivery of housing units per year
(2014-2018 actual; 2019-2021 forecast)

■ HU per year



RHP People

The RHP would like to welcome **Ms. Renee Lariviere**, who replaces **Mr. Eric Swinn** as a Representative of the U.S. government on the Regional Housing Programme. Ms. Lariviere works in the Office of Europe, Central Asia, and the Americas within the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, in Washington D.C. She helps to develop and manage the United States Government's response to refugee and migration issues in Europe and Central Asia. Ms. Lariviere is a Foreign Service Officer, most recently working in the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking-in-Persons, where her portfolio included Eastern Europe and Central Asia. She has previously served in Moscow, Russia and Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

We would like to express our sincere thanks and best wishes to **Mr. Fermin Cordoba** who, after many years working with the RHP as the Head of Human Dimension Department at the OSCE Mission to BiH, has moved on to new opportunities. We are grateful to Fermin for his strong commitment to the RHP, constructive input and consistently compassionate approach, which contributed to making the RHP what it is today.

The RHP team at the CEB has meanwhile been replenished with new faces in recent times, some of whom are already well-known but are long overdue a formal introduction to the RHP Newsletter readership. **Ms. Elizabeth O'Connor** joined the team almost two years ago as Monitoring Manager, bringing with her international experience in the management, implementation, and evaluation of programmes for socio-economic development.

More recently, in September 2019, **Ms. Clara Thompson-Lipponen** joined as Secretariat Manager, replacing **Ms. Eleni Vossou**, who has since returned to work for the EU. Clara has a background in EU and international policy, most recently as a policy analyst at the OECD.

Finally, **Ms. Marina Milosević Dussaule** has recently replaced **Ms. Aleksandra Mercier** as Programme Assistant, as Aleksandra will assume new responsibilities within the CEB. Marina has previously worked in international financial relations. We would like to wish Eleni and Aleksandra the very best of luck in their future roles.

RHP Events



5 September 2019

Extraordinary (23rd) Technical Committee meeting, Brussels, Belgium

18 September 2019

Completion of works on two apartment buildings for 50 families/beneficiaries move in, Paracin and Golubinci, Serbia (SRB4)

18 September 2019

Launch of works on Home for 104 elderly persons and adults with disabilities in Niksic, Montenegro (MNE6)

Mid-September 2019

Completion of works on apartment buildings for 25 families/beneficiaries move in, Kikinda, Serbia (SRB2)



2-3 October 2019

24th Technical Committee and 27th Regional Coordination Forum, Sarajevo, BiH

First half of October 2019

Completion of works on an apartment building for 20 families/beneficiaries move in, Bajina Basta, Serbia (SRB2)

Mid-October 2019

Joint action in the Konik settlement to improve the quality of life and raise awareness, Konik, Podgorica, Montenegro



Second half of October 2019

Delivery of keys to reconstructed houses, Croatia (HR6)

Beginning of November 2019

Completion of works on apartment buildings/beneficiaries move in, Brus, Sevojno, Sombor, Serbia (SRB4)

Mid November 2019

Launch of construction of 50 family houses, Montenegro (MNE8)

26 November 2019

19th RHP Fund Assembly of Donors and 15th RHP Steering Committee meetings, Paris, France

End November 2019

Completion of works on apartment buildings/ beneficiaries move in, Zabari, Malo Crnice, Mionica, Krupanj, Serbia (SRB5)



First half of December 2019

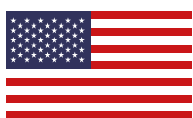
Completion of works on an apartment building for 20 families/beneficiaries move in, Odzaci, Serbia (SRB4)

Mid December 2019

Completion of works on apartment buildings/ beneficiaries move in, Pozarevac, Svilajnac, Krusevac, Nis, Uzice, Serbia (SRB4)



The Regional Housing Programme is financed and supported by the international community



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, Switzerland, Italy, Denmark, Turkey, Luxembourg, Spain, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and the Slovak Republic.

www.regionalhousingprogramme.org

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