



Regional
Housing
Programme

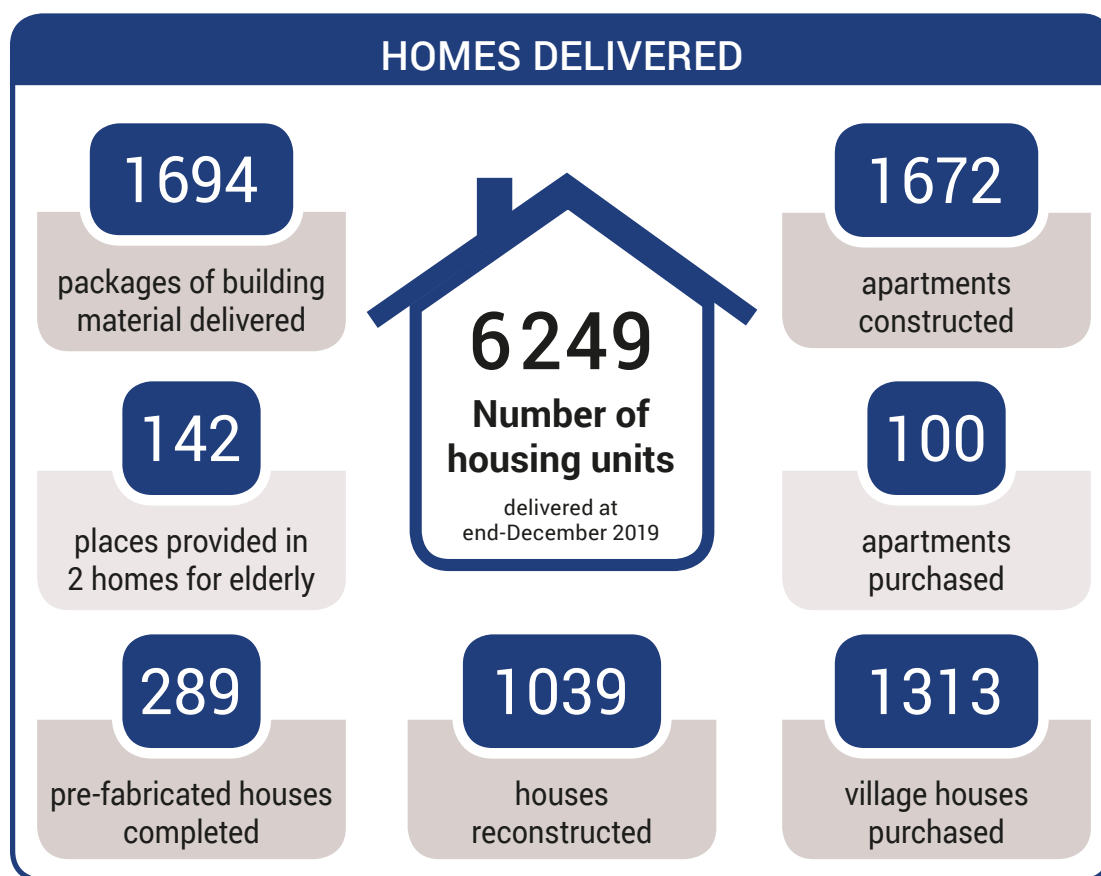
RHP NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2019



Milestones in 2019

By the end of 2019, an estimated 6 249 RHP housing units will have been delivered in the four Partner Countries:



RHP IMPLEMENTATION STATUS – DECEMBER 2019

Number of approved sub-projects	31
Total estimated cost of approved sub-projects	EUR 289 million
Total approved grant amount	EUR 237 million
Total national contribution	EUR 52 million
Number of households targeted	11 800
Number of beneficiaries targeted	36 000
Total amount disbursed	EUR 156 million
Housing Units delivered (est)	6 249



Additional Donor Contributions and Extension of the RHP

The achievements of the Regional Housing Programme would not be possible without the generosity of its donors. A number of additional contributions were kindly made by RHP donors in 2019.

In March 2019, the Swiss government made an additional donation of EUR 900 000 to the RHP, to fund further housing solutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and Serbia.

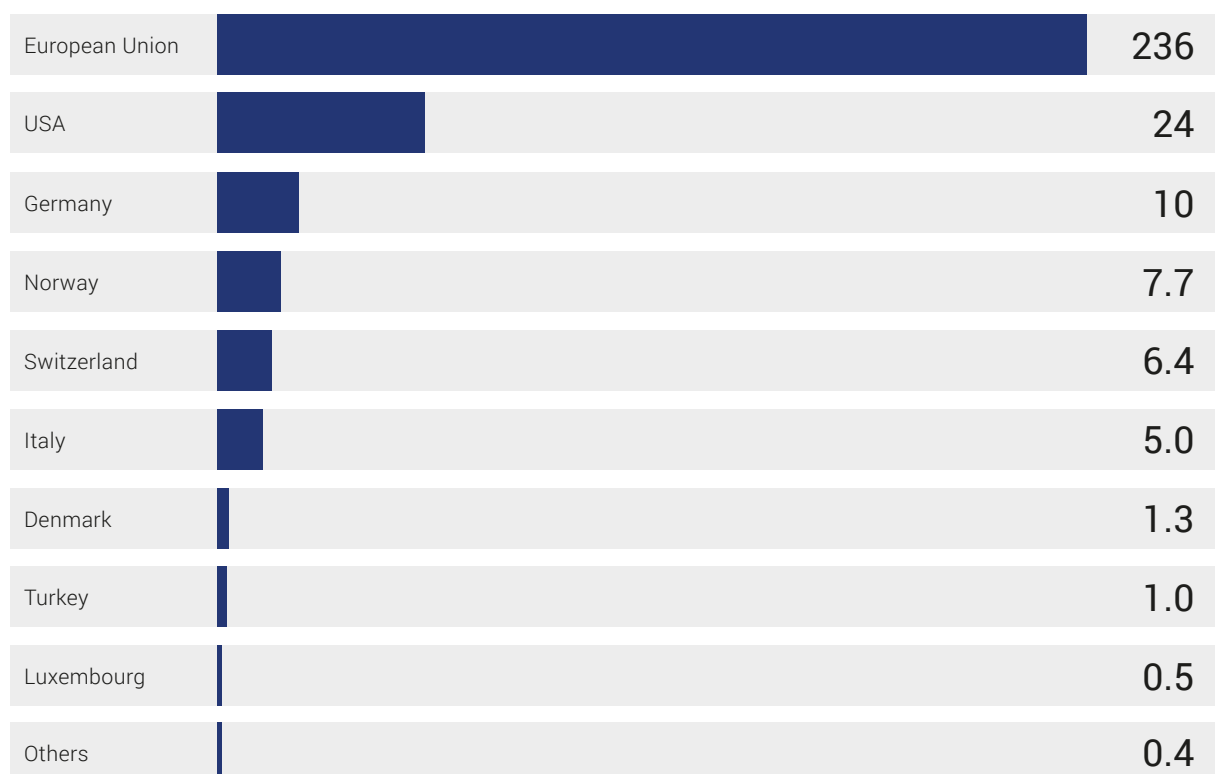
More recently, in November 2019, as a token of the donors' continued support for the Programme, a number of RHP donors pledged additional contributions. Germany pledged a contribution of EUR 1 million, bringing its total contribution to EUR 10 million. Norway, meanwhile, pledged NOK 7 million (approximately EUR 700 000), and EUR 500 000 was pledged by Switzerland, bringing their total contributions to EUR 7.7 million and EUR 6.4 million respectively. Spain, which has already contributed EUR 213 000 to support RHP implementation, has also expressed its willingness to provide additional financing.

The European Union (EU), as the largest RHP donor, also pledged to provide additional funding of about EUR 2 million, further to its current commitment of EUR 234 million. Combined, these final pledges will enable the RHP to be extended by 12 months – until June 2022 – allowing the Partner Countries the best opportunity to reach their delivery targets.

These upcoming contributions will bring the donor commitment to the RHP to a total of EUR 291 million, to the benefit of 11 800 most-vulnerable families in the four Partner Countries.

Donor Contributions to the RHP

Total pledged: **EUR 291 million**



in EUR million

Implementation Highlights



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



In 2019, Bosnia and Herzegovina made significant progress in implementing the six ongoing sub-projects. Under BiH1 (now completed), BiH2 and BiH4, 250 houses were delivered to beneficiaries, while four multi-apartment buildings were constructed and inaugurated under the sub-project BiH3 in Gorazde, Brcko District, Foca and Bileca. In addition, beneficiary selection for BiH5 was completed and tenders for design are being prepared. Designs for buildings under BiH6 are in progress. More than 1 200 housing units will have been constructed in BiH by the end of 2019. Works are currently in progress on close to 500 family houses and 15 buildings, with a total of 296 flats in 83 municipalities. The majority of these are in the final construction phase.

By the end of 2019, a total of 629 RHP beneficiary families in 55 municipalities will have also been supported by social and economic sustainability measures. As a result, these families have increased their family incomes by an average of close to 40%. This support is provided by the Catholic Relief Services (CRS), while the U.S. Government, the Government of Switzerland, the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees and the Entity Ministries have ensured the funds to continue supporting the sustainability of RHP beneficiaries in 2020. Thanks to EU Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) funds and the Igman Initiative, household appliances and basic furniture are also being provided to the 74 most-vulnerable families in three buildings.

By the first half of 2022, 3 202 housing units for about 10 000 refugees, displaced persons and returnees are expected to be delivered under the RHP in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



MONTENEGRO



In 2019, work commenced on the MNE6 sub-project "Conversion of a military facility into a home for elderly persons in Niksic". This facility is expected to accommodate 104 elderly persons and adults with disabilities, in the first half of 2021. Meanwhile, under sub-project MNE4, 271 persons moved into 94 newly-constructed apartments in the municipality of Berane in March 2019. Earlier this year, Montenegro launched sub-project MNE7 - "Purchase of 36 apartments in the municipality of Herceg Novi", which has now entered its final phase. Although considerable progress has been made, a substantial amount of work remains with respect to both the purchase of apartments and related administrative procedures.

Following a public call, which is now completed, a total of 110 families from 17 municipalities have applied to the sub-project MNE8 - "Construction of minimum 50 individual houses in various municipalities in Montenegro", and a catalogue of houses and conceptual design for standard house types has been prepared (each house will be adapted to the family structure and location).

Preparation of the main construction design for sub-project MNE9 - "Construction of apartments for 96 most-vulnerable families in Vrela Ribnicka, Podgorica", was completed in August 2019. Construction work is expected to commence in early 2020, while completion of construction is planned for May 2021.



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA



2019 marked the closeout of several RHP projects in Croatia. All issues regarding the final sub-project costs have now been addressed, and the sub-projects HR2-HR5 are considered closed from a financial perspective. Regarding HR6, the remaining five houses (out of 62) will be finished in 2020. The total cost of these six sub-projects is approximately EUR 19 million, of which EUR 14 million is funded through the RHP and EUR 5 million through national contributions.

During 2019, a total of 73 RHP beneficiary families moved into new homes in Croatia: 4 families received new flats under sub-project HR4, and 31 family houses were re/constructed through sub-project HR6. Meanwhile, 38 beneficiaries moved into the Home for Elderly in Glini under sub-project HR3.

Although considerable progress has been made, the remaining needs are nevertheless substantial. Three new sub-projects have therefore been approved: HR7 - "Construction of an apartment building for 21 families in Vukovar"; HR8 - "Renovation, reconstruction or construction of 25 family houses"; and HR9 - "Purchase of 38 flats", thereby providing new housing solutions for an additional 84 families. The total cost of these new sub-projects amounts to approximately EUR 3.9 million.

The official opening of construction works for HR7 took place on 30 July 2019. The Grant Agreements for the remaining two sub-projects will be signed by the end of 2019.

By the end of the RHP in 2022, a total of 412 housing solutions will have been delivered to around 1 000 beneficiaries in Croatia.



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA



The RHP is being implemented in 161 local self-governments (LSGs; cities and municipalities) across Serbia. New apartments are being constructed in 50 LSGs. To date, approximately 4 000 housing solutions have been provided. In 2019, the keys for 501 apartments were delivered in 13 cities and municipalities under sub-projects SRB2, SRB4 and SRB5. Contracting of 545 apartments in 14 cities and municipalities is currently ongoing, while the construction of 888 apartments is making progress. In addition, in 2019, beneficiaries have moved into 20 pre-fabricated houses, 815 families have been supported with the provision of packages of building material, and 297 village houses have been purchased.

The extension to sub-project SRB8 for the provision of an additional 250 apartments in Belgrade was signed between the Republic of Serbia and the CEB in March 2019; the grant amount allocated for SRB8 now amounts to EUR 23 million, for the provision of 852 housing solutions. In March 2019, a Grant Agreement for the provision of 900 housing solutions under the SRB9 sub-project was signed. In July 2019, the sub-project was extended by an additional 180 village houses. As a result, SRB9 has been allocated a total of EUR 22 million in grants to date.

In 2020, a further 2 000 housing solutions are expected to be delivered in Serbia, with a view to delivering housing to a total of approximately 7 500 RHP families by the close of the Programme in 2022.



Meet the RHP Beneficiaries



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



Kemal and Adisa Coric, Podvezlje, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Thanks to the RHP, Kemal Coric was recently able to return to Podvezlje, a small village on the Velez Mountain, near the city of Mostar. In August 2019, Kemal moved into a newly-built house with his wife, two children – a son aged 14 and a daughter aged two – and his elderly parents.

In 1992, Kemal, a young boy at the time, was forced to flee the family home due to the devastation of the war. “As I recall, we lived in about 11 different accommodations as displaced persons,” says Kemal. “It was unbearable all those years.”

During this period, Kemal married, and now has two children. Due to health problems, he earns a living by managing livestock. He has bought sheep in order to produce milk and cheese which he then sells to the local neighbours. His wife has a part-time job. While Kemal’s parents recall the difficulties involved in returning to the ruins of their house, they express relief that their new home is now complete: “Now, we feel at home again – back where we belong.”

The Coric family had heard about the RHP via the Federal Ministry of Displaced Persons and Refugees (FMDPR) of Bosnia and Herzegovina. “All these years, I applied for assistance to reconstruct our house whenever the opportunity arose,” Kemal observes, “but the RHP is the only programme that has actually helped my family.”

In August 2019, RHP donors and stakeholders had the pleasure of visiting the Coric family in their new home during celebrations to mark the delivery of the 1000th RHP housing unit in BiH.

Implementation Highlights

1000TH RHP HOME HANDED OVER IN 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 BiH4 sub-project, 49 individual houses have been reconstructed in Mostar alone since November 2018.

One of the beneficiaries, Jozo Rajic, had returned to the village of Grabovica, near Mostar, after 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.

At the ceremony, the Minister for Human Rights and Refugees of BiH, Semiha Borovac, stated: "The process of return and care for internally displaced persons is of crucial importance for maintaining the stability and peace of the region. The Programme has contributed significantly to this."

These comments were echoed by Gianluca Vannini, Head of Operations of the EU Delegation to BiH, who emphasised that thanks to the RHP, more than 3 200 families would receive accommodation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, allowing them the opportunity to renew their lives. In addition to housing, socio-economic support for finding employment is of key importance for their successful integration, he said.

On behalf of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Anne-Christine Eriksson, UNHCR Regional Representative for Southeastern Europe, added that the RHP was an example of the coordinated cooperation, commitment and trust of the stakeholders concerned.

FIRST RHP BUILDING IN BRCKO DISTRICT HANDED OVER



On 6 June 2019, a celebration took place in Brcko, BiH, to hand over the keys to new homes to eight beneficiary families (27 persons). The apartment building was the first RHP building to be completed in Brcko District.

One of the beneficiaries of the newly-built apartments, Fahrudin Kalesic, expressed his relief.

"After 26 years of moving from one accommodation to another, my family will finally be able to settle down for good", he said. "I wish that all refugees and displaced persons could have a roof over their heads and be as happy as we are today".

NEW HOMES DELIVERED TO BENEFICIARY FAMILIES IN FOCA AND BILECA



On 11 December 2019, RHP beneficiaries and stakeholders celebrated the moving of 27 most-vulnerable refugee and displaced families into new RHP-financed apartments in Foca (12 families) and Bileca (15 families).

Unveiling the RHP plaque at the entrance to the building in Bileca, Minister Borovac stated: "This Programme reaffirms not only the provision of housing units, but the readiness for the coexistence of all citizens in Bosnia and Herzegovina."

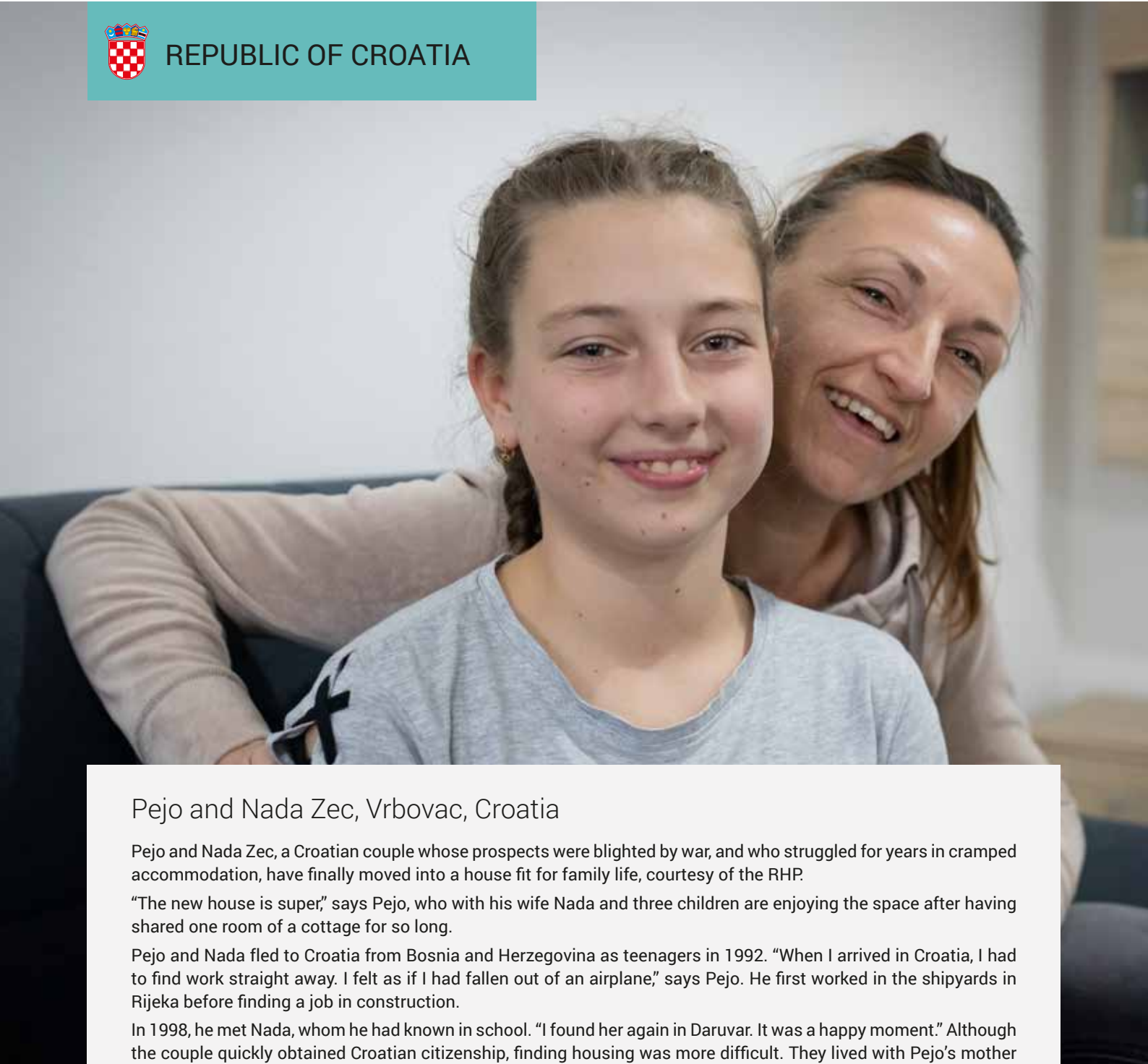
Bosko Savic, a beneficiary, commented: "I cannot express my happiness and satisfaction when I look at this beautiful building. I am speaking in front of all my lovely neighbours, and I want to wish long and happy lives to all of us in our new homes."



Meet the RHP Beneficiaries



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA



Pejo and Nada Zec, Vrbovac, Croatia

Pejo and Nada Zec, a Croatian couple whose prospects were blighted by war, and who struggled for years in cramped accommodation, have finally moved into a house fit for family life, courtesy of the RHP.

"The new house is super," says Pejo, who with his wife Nada and three children are enjoying the space after having shared one room of a cottage for so long.

Pejo and Nada fled to Croatia from Bosnia and Herzegovina as teenagers in 1992. "When I arrived in Croatia, I had to find work straight away. I felt as if I had fallen out of an airplane," says Pejo. He first worked in the shipyards in Rijeka before finding a job in construction.

In 1998, he met Nada, whom he had known in school. "I found her again in Daruvar. It was a happy moment." Although the couple quickly obtained Croatian citizenship, finding housing was more difficult. They lived with Pejo's mother in Daruvar and brought up the children in one room of her small cottage. The family managed to buy the land in Vrbovac on which their new house stands, but in 2004, Pejo was forced to have surgery for work-related injuries. Left on a small disability pension, he needed help to build the house. They applied for RHP assistance in 2012, and moved into the house in August 2018.

Nada still cannot believe the family has a whole house to themselves. "It's a perfect fit with what we like: nothing flashy, nothing antique, just clean and modern," she says. The eldest son, Ivan, who has left school to work in a warehouse, remembers how difficult it was to concentrate on his homework at the old cottage. Such problems will fortunately not afflict his younger siblings. His sister Martina has a room of her own, and while Ivan shares with his brother Josip, conditions are much better than before.

Story courtesy of the UNHCR

Implementation Highlights

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW RHP BUILDING STARTS IN VUKOVAR



On **30 July 2019**, RHP stakeholders assembled in Vukovar to celebrate the construction launch of a residential building for 21 RHP beneficiary families.

Speaking at the ceremony, Nikola Mazar, State Secretary at the Central State Office for Reconstruction and Housing Care, said: “68% of the funds allocated for this project are donor funds, which will be used to take care of the most-vulnerable persons. In 400 days, we expect the construction works to be finalised.”

Mario Pavlovic, Regional Liaison Officer of the UNHCR Representation for South Eastern Europe, added: “The project beneficiaries are victims of the war. That’s why we are all together working on an integrated approach to assist them in having a better life and a future.”

Wylita Bell, Acting Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Zagreb, agreed, emphasising that the objective of the RHP was more than the construction of apartment buildings - it was to propose just solutions for people who had been forcibly displaced.



RHP BENEFICIARY FAMILIES MOVE INTO RECONSTRUCTED HOUSES UNDER HR6 SUB-PROJECT



Throughout 2019, RHP beneficiary families selected for housing assistance under the HR6 sub-project have received the keys to their reconstructed houses. In total, 57 houses will have been reconstructed by the end of 2019, while reconstruction of a further five houses should be completed in the first half of 2020.

The beneficiary families now living in their new homes have expressed their gratitude both to RHP donors and the UNHCR representatives who provided support throughout the process.

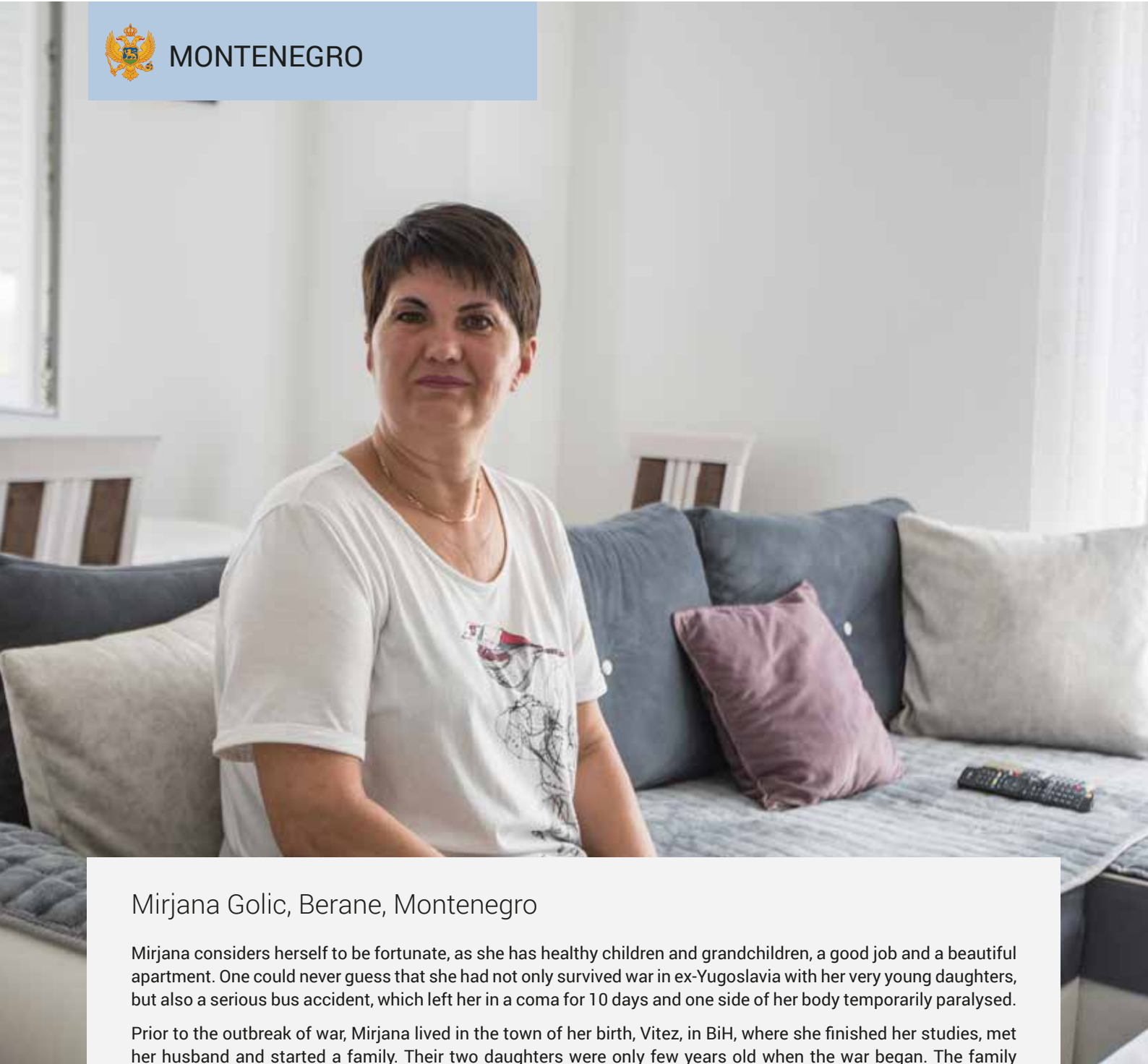




Meet the RHP Beneficiaries



MONTENEGRO



Mirjana Golic, Berane, Montenegro

Mirjana considers herself to be fortunate, as she has healthy children and grandchildren, a good job and a beautiful apartment. One could never guess that she had not only survived war in ex-Yugoslavia with her very young daughters, but also a serious bus accident, which left her in a coma for 10 days and one side of her body temporarily paralysed.

Prior to the outbreak of war, Mirjana lived in the town of her birth, Vitez, in BiH, where she finished her studies, met her husband and started a family. Their two daughters were only few years old when the war began. The family moved to Berane, Montenegro, where Mirjana and her husband, both technology engineers, soon managed to find employment. They managed to secure accommodation from the municipality of Berane, in the Bosnian refugee settlement Rudes 1, first in a small room, and later a two-room apartment.

Their elder daughter completed her economics studies in Podgorica and found work in a bank, while the younger daughter, who is a physical therapist, received start-up assistance from the German NGO HELP.

In March 2019, Mirjana and her family moved into one of 92 newly-constructed RHP apartments in Berane. "A person can't do anything without help from friends and good people", Mirjana reflects. "We are thankful to all those who helped us to survive the difficult times."

Implementation Highlights

JOINT ACTION IN KONIK CAMP TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE OF RESIDENTS



On **20 November 2019**, a “joint action” event was organised by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare of Montenegro in Konik camp, aimed at improving the quality of life of residents through the landscaping of the surroundings and the planting of trees. The camp, located near the city of Podgorica, is Europe’s longest-operating refugee camp, settled by Roma and Balkan Egyptians who fled violence in Kosovo in 1999. Montenegro has in recent years implemented an IPA-funded project consisting of the construction of 48 apartments and a multipurpose centre for camp residents. The RHP funded the construction of 171 supplementary housing units, enabling the closure of two large collective centres – Camp Konik I and Camp Konik II – in late 2018.

In addition to the provision of housing for camp residents, significant results have been achieved in recent years with respect to improving their social inclusion – e.g. in the regulation of legal status or improvement of access to education and health care – with support from the EU, UNHCR, and NGOs such as the Red Cross and HELP.

As 20 November was International Children’s Day, the joint action focused on children. The Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Kemal Purisic, noted: “A tree is a symbol of environmental protection and growing up in a safe environment, where the rights of a child are respected. At present, 738 children from Konik are in formal education and have access to a medical doctor.”

CONSTRUCTION LAUNCHED OF HOME FOR ELDERLY AND ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES IN NIKSIC



A groundbreaking ceremony took place in Niksic, Montenegro, on **16 September 2019**, to mark the construction launch of a new home for elderly persons and adults with disabilities.

The project, with a total value of approximately EUR 4.8 million, of which 70% is financed by the RHP Fund, is scheduled to open its doors to 104 residents in 2021.

The new facilities – which will be reconstructed from two existing buildings, and specifically designed for persons with reduced mobility – will consist of 52 rooms each, medical facilities, dining areas, activity rooms and a library.

400 VULNERABLE PERSONS FROM RUDES COLLECTIVE SETTLEMENT RECEIVE NEW HOMES IN BERANE



On **26 March 2019**, over 400 persons (94 families) received new homes in the municipality of Berane. Thanks to the RHP, the former residents of Rudes 1 (mostly persons displaced from BiH and Croatia in 1991-1995) and Rudes 2 (mostly IDPs from Kosovo from 1999) can now settle permanently in the four apartment buildings.

One of the beneficiaries, Mr. Vujosevic, stated: “I would like to thank, in the name of my family and neighbours, all those who contributed to our happiness today – we finally have a place that we can call home, which gives us strength for new achievements and successes.”



Meet the RHP Beneficiaries



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA



Dusko and Tanja Krajisnik, Loznica, Serbia

Tanja and Dusko Krajisnik fled their hometown of Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina, in 1992, after the outbreak of war. Dusko went to Prijedor, while Tanja left for Zvornik with their young daughter. After spending several war years apart, they reunited in Loznica, which has been their home for the last twenty years and the birthplace of their son.

Following their move to Loznica, Dusko worked as a deminer in Serbia, BiH and Croatia. "Whenever I'd enter a minefield, I wouldn't think about the danger but only about the reason why I was there – so that I could take care of my family", he explains. "There are good people everywhere", he adds, reflecting on his work with his Croatian and Bosnian colleagues. Afterwards, Dusko worked as a construction worker in Russia, but is currently unemployed. "I've been getting by for twenty years, and I'll manage to get by now", he says.

Prior to receiving their new apartment in Loznica courtesy of the RHP, the family had moved between eight apartments. Nevertheless, Tanja recalls that they had always had good neighbours regardless of where they lived. Even before the RHP building had been completed, one of Tanja's neighbours had already figured out the fastest route to visit them.

Tanja and Dusko are delighted with their new home. "Fifty square meters isn't a lot of space for the four of us, but it really means a lot," they say with a smile.

Implementation Highlights

50 RHP BENEFICIARY FAMILIES WELCOMED INTO NEW HOMES IN GOLUBINCI AND PARACIN



On **18 September 2019**, 50 RHP refugee beneficiary families participated in the ceremonial awarding of keys for their newly-built homes in the municipalities of Golubinci (Stara Pazova) and Paracin, Serbia.

One of the beneficiaries in Golubinci, Stevo Bulic, thanked all representatives of the Republic of Serbia, the donor community and the RHP, recalling how he had fled his home in 1995. "After being wounded as a child, experiencing the temporary separation of the family, and moving accommodation and jobs several times, we eventually managed to settle in Golubinci. We are happy that our two children will now be able to have their friends visit them in our own apartment. Thank you all who contributed to making this new start possible."

In Paracin, Zvezdan Rundek, a refugee from BiH, said: "We have a proper bathroom, a furnished kitchen, and we can move in in the coming days. I'm very happy".

KEYS HANDED OVER TO FAMILIES IN VRNJACKA BANJA AND UB DURING SUMMER MONTHS



On **3 August 2019** in Vrnjacka Banja, Serbia, a celebration took place to mark the moving in of 20 beneficiary families, following the completion of construction works worth EUR 600 000.

On **6 July 2019**, RHP stakeholders celebrated the delivery of 20 apartments to RHP beneficiaries in Ub, Serbia.

On behalf of the refugee families, Milana Nikolic and her son Andrej thanked all those who had contributed to the successful finalisation of the project.

60 NEW HOMES DELIVERED TO BENEFICIARY FAMILIES IN KLADOVO, NEGOTIN AND LOZNICA



On **13 May 2019**, keys to 30 RHP-financed apartments were handed over in Kladovo and Negotin, Serbia. Mihajlo Dronjak, a RHP beneficiary in Kladovo, 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 my family and I will have our own address."

On **21 April 2019**, keys were delivered to 30 RHP-financed apartments for refugees from BiH and Croatia living in Loznica, Serbia.



Stakeholder Events

REGIONAL HOUSING PROGRAMME SHOWCASED AT PARIS PEACE FORUM

On **11-13 November 2019**, on the occasion of the Paris Peace Forum, the Council of Europe Development Bank presented the RHP to a diverse audience from approximately 140 countries. The RHP team was joined by representatives from the OSCE, the UNHCR, and the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migration (KIRS).



The Forum was opened by António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations; French President Emmanuel Macron; and Ursula von der Leyen, the European Commission President, amongst others. The RHP was one of 114 projects selected out of about 700 applications from across the globe, and was the only project from the region that engaged with sustainable (post-) conflict solutions.

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 in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In Serbia, the 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.

In Sarajevo, 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, at which RHP donors and local and international organisations had the opportunity to discuss with beneficiaries the impact that the RHP has had on their lives.

A special edition of the programme “In Medias Res” of the national TV channel “BHT1” in Bosnia and Herzegovina, brought together representatives of beneficiaries, donors and implementers of the Regional Housing Programme in BiH. Three RHP beneficiary families presented their life stories. Damir Barucic, one beneficiary from Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina, remarked: “No words can describe the feeling of getting an apartment, especially when the owners of the house you have been living in ask you to move out. For us, this project is immense.”

RHP ACHIEVEMENTS AND “LESSONS LEARNT” DISCUSSED AT RHP LEGACY WORKSHOP

An RHP Legacy Workshop was organised by the CEB and hosted by the OSCE in Vienna on **10 May 2019**. The event was opened by the Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, Ambassador Marcel Pesko. The objective of the workshop was to discuss RHP achievements and lessons learnt, reflect on the RHP experience to date and draw policy recommendations that can inform future programmes in the area of social or refugee housing in the Balkan region and beyond.

Valuable lessons on issues such as multilateral cooperation, programme design and execution, as well as ensuring a sustainable impact, can be derived from the RHP, which is currently in its seventh year of implementation.

Policy recommendations transpiring from the discussions, as well as from a thorough desk review and interviews with RHP stakeholders, will be compiled in a document in 2020.

New RHP Films

In 2019, a new RHP film, “Here to Stay,” was finalised, summarising the achievements of the RHP to date. It highlights the concrete impact that the Programme has had on the lives of thousands of beneficiaries, in addition to the key achievements which are not limited to providing a durable home for the most-vulnerable refugees and displaced persons: the RHP has also concretely contributed to enhanced regional cooperation and institutional capacity-building. The RHP has furthermore highlighted the importance of the sustainability of the housing solutions provided.

The film can be found here: regionalhousingprogramme.org/media/video



In addition to the “Here to Stay” film, four new short films have been released which present the stories of RHP beneficiaries in the four Partner Countries. To access these, please click: [regionalhousingprogramme on you tube](https://regionalhousingprogramme.org/on-youtube)



RHP Bosnia and Herzegovina 2019
[go to video](#)



RHP Croatia 2019
[go to video](#)



RHP Montenegro 2019
[go to video](#)



RHP Serbia 2019
[go to video](#)

RHP People

Ms. Anne-Christine Eriksson, UNHCR Regional Representative for South Eastern Europe and Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, retired in autumn 2019, after more than 30 years of working for the UNHCR in the field and at the headquarters in Geneva. On behalf of all RHP stakeholders, we would like to thank Anne-Christine for her dedication and constructive contribution to the RHP cause over the past three years.

We would also like to welcome to the RHP family Ms. Anne-Marie Deutschlander, who took up her duties as the Principal Situation Coordinator for the Western Balkans in the UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe in October 2019. She has held progressively responsible positions in a variety of job assignments both at headquarters and in field operations, including Mauritania, Jordan and, most recently, Senegal, where she served as Deputy Regional Representative at the UNHCR Regional Representation for West Africa.



Outlook for 2020



By the end of 2019, with close to 6 300 housing units handed over to the benefit of approximately 19 000 most-vulnerable persons, the RHP will have delivered over 50 % of its target of 11 800 homes. This result is impressive, and can be attributed to the personal engagement, hard work and constructive attitude of the RHP implementers in the Partner Countries, underpinned by strong and continuous support from the donors, the UNHCR, the OSCE and the CEB.

The support from the RHP donor community became particularly concrete in November 2019 when, as mentioned earlier, the donors agreed not only to extend by a supplementary 12 months the project implementation period, but several donors also pledged new funds to enable the financing of this extension. This generosity has one single objective: to maximise the number of families that will have entered a new chapter of their lives by the time of closure of the RHP, by finally having decent and durable homes.

The efforts of all stakeholders will have to continue in 2020 and beyond, as the plan is to deliver 3 000 new units in 2020, 1 300 in 2021 and the remainder – 1 100 – in the first half of 2022. While the focus will remain on efficient implementation, 2020 will also see the work on identifying RHP's legacy continue. Furthermore, the sustainability prospects of the beneficiaries will be at the centre of increasing attention.

The CEB's RHP team looks forward to a new year of intensive and fruitful co-operation with all RHP partners, and to the many inauguration events to come!





Bosnia and
Herzegovina



Republic of
Croatia



Montenegro



Republic of
Serbia

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