



Regional
Housing
Programme

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Photo on the cover:
Delivery of the 2000th housing unit in Backa Palanka, Serbia

Cover Story



2000TH RHP HOUSING UNIT HANDED OVER IN SERBIA

On 23 June 2018, keys to the new home were handed over to the 2000th RHP beneficiary family in Serbia. Family Mileusnic, refugees from Croatia, received a pre-fabricated house in Backa Palanka, constructed under the RHP sub-project SRB2.

The keys were handed over by Ivica Dacic, First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the Commission for Coordination of the Process of Permanent Integration of Refugees.

"Many of you are well aware that I have continuously participated in all events relating to the implementation of the RHP. Over the last several years, since the Programme reached the phase of intensive implementation, I have visited many places, towns and municipalities across Serbia and witnessed the extent of effort invested in the entire process, along with its effect," said Minister Dacic.

Svetlana Velimirovic, Deputy Commissioner, Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, said that the largest part of the refugees in Serbia have integrated into the Serbian society and reminded the participants that the very aim of the Regional Housing Programme is to assist these people in finding a permanent place of residence for themselves and their children, by helping them resolve the housing issue.

"Having pledged EUR 234 million, the European Union is the largest donor to the Regional Housing Programme. Together with our Serbian partners, we support refugees in rebuilding their lives and thereby rebuilding the future for them and their children," said Yngve Engstroem, Head of Cooperation at the Delegation of the European Union to Serbia.

Thanks to the Regional Housing Programme in Serbia, thus far, 860 village houses have been purchased and 713 packages of building material handed over, in addition to the construction of 235 apartments and 192 pre-fabricated houses throughout the country.



Partner Countries' Highlights



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

50 RHP BENEFICIARY FAMILIES RECEIVE KEYS TO THEIR NEW APARTMENTS IN PRIJEDOR



Fifty RHP beneficiary families received keys to their new apartments on 13 July 2018 in Prijedor.

This multi-apartment building is part of the BiH3 sub-project, which foresees the construction of 27 apartment buildings with 552 flats throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. Works have been completed in Ilidza, Pale-Praca, Foca FBiH, Tuzla and Bosanski Petrovac, and the construction is ongoing in 14 other municipalities, with planned completion in 2018/2019. The total investment amounts to more than EUR 17 million.

"There are 9 cities in the Republika Srpska where we are also building homes, which will solve the housing issue for beneficiaries currently living in temporary housing, socially vulnerable families and refugees from Croatia", emphasised Davor Cordas, Minister for Refugees and Displaced Persons of Republika Srpska.

"The waiting has paid off", said Milka Radakovic, one of the beneficiaries, who had lived with her mother Gospava and son Aleksandar in an alternative accommodation in Ljubija, a small iron-mining town near Prijedor. "We are grateful to all those who have contributed to making it possible", added Ms Radakovic.

EIGHTEEN REFUGEE FAMILIES MOVE TO A NEW RHP MULTI-APARTMENT BUILDING IN ILIDZA



On 14 June 2018, 18 vulnerable families – refugees, returnees or displaced persons – received keys to their new apartments in Ilidza.

Semih Borovac, Minister of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, handed over the keys, stating that this was a very emotional event for her and that she

was particularly pleased that single-parent families, children without parents, and parents and children with special needs will move into the new flats, making it a project with a very high social impact.

"This is one of the most important housing care programmes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, implemented by the Federal Ministry of Displaced Persons and Refugees. Thanks to the Donors, eighteen of the most vulnerable families in the municipality of Ilidza will be able to move into new apartments," said Edin Ramic, Minister of Displaced Persons and Refugees in the Federation of BiH.

These apartments are part of the BiH3 sub-project, with a total cost of EUR 17 million, of which 80% is financed by the RHP Fund and 20% by national contribution. The project foresees the construction of altogether 552 flats throughout the country.

BENEFICIARY STORY: KARAMUJIC FAMILY, ILIDZA



Kenajid Karamujic was born in 1983 in the municipality of Bratunac, in eastern Bosnia. In 1995, he fled with his brother to Srebrenica and after that to Tuzla. Kenajid came to Sarajevo in 1999 with the intention to permanently settle there. He attended a secondary school for hearing impaired children where he gained a diploma in auto body mechanic. In 2008, Kenajid married Melisa, who also has a hearing disability, and they had three children. Their two boys, Amir (10) and Almir (9), attend elementary school for children with disabilities in Sarajevo, while the daughter Ajka is 4 years old.

The Karamujic family have moved five times from one house to another in Sarajevo. They even lived outdoors for some time. Before moving into the new flat, the family lived in a small inadequate room provided by the municipality as temporary accommodation. The only source of family income is the child allowance and disability allowance. Kenajid and Melisa take good care of their children despite all the difficulties and the minimal allocations they receive from social assistance. Their relationship is harmonious and they communicate constantly. Kenajid learned about the Regional Housing Programme from officials in the municipality of Ilidza. "Since the moment I found out that we have been selected, I have imagined the new apartment and how to furnish the rooms," he said in sign language.

In June 2018, the Karamujic family moved into the new multi-apartment building constructed under the BiH3 sub-project in the municipality of Ilidza. All family members are very happy that they have finally resolved their housing problems and started a new life in the brand new apartment.

Partner Countries' Highlights

HANDING OVER KEYS TO 20 BENEFICIARY FAMILIES IN BOSANSKI PETROVAC

On 25 May 2018 in Bosanski Petrovac, twenty refugee families and/or displaced persons received keys to their new homes in a multi-apartment building constructed under the Regional Housing Programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Mayor of Bosanski Petrovac, Zlatko Hujic, opened the ceremony and welcomed the participants by stating that they are celebrating together the "day of the municipality", in front of the new RHP apartment building which will allow 20 families - who have waited for more than 20 years - to finally move into new homes.

"I want to wish to all the citizens of Bosanski Petrovac a happy municipality day. This new building for the most vulnerable RHP beneficiaries is the best gift for them, to mark the municipality day. Through the RHP, we are strengthening our friendship and cooperation not only within Bosnia and Herzegovina but also in the region. I would like to emphasize that RHP is one of the most important programmes contributing to the implementation of Annex VII of the Dayton Peace Agreement," said Semiha Borovac, Minister of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



This investment is part of the RHP sub-project BiH3 which consists in the construction of 552 apartments in 27 apartment buildings, in 19 municipalities throughout the country. The works are ongoing or about to start in all locations, with the objective of completing the sub-project in 2019.

BENEFICIARY STORY: KERKEZ FAMILY, BOSANSKI PETROVAC



Mersija and Enes Kerkez are parents of four children, the oldest of whom, Alen, is studying at the Faculty of Forestry in Sarajevo. Their neighbours helped them financially so that Alen could go and study in Sarajevo, as the family did not have enough resources themselves.

Before the war, Mersija and Enes lived as a young couple in the municipality of Kotor Varos. They were expelled from their homes and taken to a concentration camp, where they spent the entire war. After the war, they got married and fled to Travnik where they lived in an abandoned house. In 2008, they moved to Bosanski Petrovac – again living in very poor conditions in a tiny house which they rented. Enes found a job in Bosanska Krupa where he worked on cutting trees in the woods. In 2014, a tree fell on Enes' leg making him invalid, unable to work. Mersija got a job in a local sawmill and started working on splitting and stacking wood. In addition, she grows vegetables in the greenhouse which they received as a donation from Bosanski Petrovac municipality, and looks after their cow that produces milk for the family. This family is in a very difficult economic situation, having to live on Mersija's modest salary, while Enes is registered as unemployed, without any income.

The Kerkez family moved into the new RHP apartment in May 2018. "We have spent more than 20 years moving from one place to another and now, finally, we have a permanent home. This programme is a testament that adequate housing for us, the most vulnerable people, can be provided here in Bosnia and Herzegovina."



"We are here for you. The European Union will continue to work on the integration and sustainable return in BiH and in the region and I am confident that this year will be marked by many more achievements. It gives me great joy to hand over to you the keys to your new apartments and witness the beginning of a new chapter in your lives," said Gianluca Vannini, Acting Head of Operations, Section for Social Development, Civil Society and Cross Border Cooperation of the EU Delegation to BiH.

Partner Countries' Highlights



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

INAUGURATION OF HOME FOR ELDERLY/ DISABLED IN GLINA

On 7 May 2018, the RHP stakeholders celebrated the inauguration of a new home for 74 RHP beneficiaries in Glina.

The sub-project encompasses the reconstruction and extension of a home for elderly and disabled refugees, returnees and IDPs, in order to provide them with adequate accommodation, social and health care. The home in Glina is part of the homes for elderly included in the national welfare system.

The reconstruction works started in August 2015, and the usage permit was obtained in June 2017. Sisak-Moslavina County, as the owner of the facility, then proceeded with the hiring of the staff and other administrative arrangements, to enable the opening ceremony to take place in May 2018. The total cost of the reconstruction works, including medical and other equipment, amounts to some EUR 4.2 million, 25% of which is financed by Croatia and 75% by the RHP Fund.

This sub-project is one of the flagship projects of the RHP as it demonstrates how, even in a complex institutional environment and with a large number of stakeholders involved, it is possible to join efforts to create the best possible living conditions for the most vulnerable. What's more, the Glina home for the elderly also has an important side effect as it creates several permanent jobs in a region marked by important unemployment rate.



"I am happy that today, 74 of the most vulnerable RHP beneficiaries will finally be settled after spending 27 years in temporary collective accommodation. The home will employ more than 35 people, who are at the disposal of the beneficiaries 24 hours a day," stated Nikola Mazar, State Secretary at the Central State Office for Reconstruction and Housing Care.

The Central State Office for Reconstruction and Housing Care selected, in close co-operation with UNHCR, the 74 persons that the home will now accommodate. Giuseppe Di Caro, UNHCR representative in Croatia, said: "I am glad to be present here today, when we open the door of this home to its beneficiaries. I would like to congratulate the Government of Croatia for successfully completing the 4th RHP project, thus being a frontrunner in this very important regional initiative."

REGIONAL HOUSING PROGRAMME ON CROATIAN TELEVISION

On 30 June 2018, Tatjana Vukobratovic Spasojevic, Deputy State Secretary from the Central State Office for Reconstruction and Housing Care and Neven Crvenkovic, Spokesperson for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for South



Eastern Europe, were guests at the PRIZMA programme on the Croatian public broadcaster HRT. The discussions focussed on the RHP and, in particular, its implementation and achievements in Croatia.

With the help of the RHP, Croatia is providing durable housing to the remaining refugees from the wars in ex-Yugoslavia. Since the beginning of the Programme, over 300 housing units have been handed over to their beneficiaries in Croatia. The RHP complements the efforts made by the Croatian Government in this field.

BENEFICIARY STORY: RUSMIRA OSMIC, ZAGREB



Rusmira came to Zagreb from Zvornik, a small town in Bosnia and Herzegovina, together with her parents and two siblings. They had to leave their big house with a garden in 1992, when they were forced to flee – together with hundreds of their compatriots. Her family was transferred together with their neighbours to Tuzla, where they spent 10 days in a school, sleeping on the floor and without any information about their eldest brother, who had disappeared earlier.

They arrived to Zagreb, where Rusmira's father was working on construction sites, and settled in workers' barracks, all of them in one room, without a bathroom or kitchen.

Her father lost his job in 1993, so Rusmira and her younger brother – who was 13 years old at the time – had to start working, in order to help the family survive. They were selling old clothing and other things on improvised stands in the street, sometimes earning enough to pay the rent and buy some food, but, most times, hardly surviving. Rusmira met her husband and got married, but remained homeless, as they had to constantly move from one rented apartment to another, as they did not have enough money to pay the rent. She got her oldest daughter Emina in 2002, followed by two sons in 2006 and 2007. Soon after the youngest child was born, her husband left, and Rusmira had to take care of the children on her own. She was cleaning houses and lived with her children in small, humid apartments, the only accommodation which she could afford. She tried several times to get housing assistance, but never succeeded.

Finally, in 2013, the UNHCR contacted her, helped her initiate the integration process and informed her about the possibility to get an apartment under the Regional Housing Programme. Rusmira said that she didn't believe it until she spent the first night in the 50m2 apartment, situated in a new building in Zagreb. She moved in with the children a few days before the end of 2017, and managed to get furniture and all the necessary white goods thanks to her friends and donors.

Partner Countries' Highlights



MONTENEGRO

INAUGURATION OF HOME FOR ELDERLY/DISABLED IN PLJEVLJA

On 11 April 2018 in Pljevlja, RHP stakeholders celebrated the inauguration of a RHP-financed home for 68 elderly/disabled persons.

The construction works started in May 2016, on a land plot provided by the municipality of Pljevlja. The facility is now completed; the usage permit was obtained in early April 2018.

Close to 30 beneficiaries had already moved in in April 2018, and the rest are in the process of being selected. The total staffing need is 51 persons; the recruitment is on-going and the first employment contracts were signed in March 2018.

The home for the elderly/handicapped is included in the social welfare system of Montenegro. It is managed by the municipality of Pljevlja, under the ownership of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. The salaries and the institution's operational costs are covered by the State budget.

"Only societies that take care of their most vulnerable groups, such as children, elderly and people with disabilities, are countries with a perspective. Elderly are the carriers of a tradition through wisdom in their thinking and tenderness in their actions. We have to support this culture of tolerance and understanding," stated Milutin Simovic, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Policy and Financial Systems and Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Montenegro.



UNHCR Regional Representative for South Eastern Europe Anne-Christine Eriksson said: "Today is a very special day, for two reasons. After so many years of waiting, from this day, the most vulnerable among the refugees in Montenegro – the elderly and persons with disabilities and special needs – have the chance to continue with their lives in more dignified, healthier and safe conditions."

The total cost of the project is EUR 2.2 million, of which EUR 1.9 million, or 86%, is financed by the RHP Fund and the remainder, EUR 0.3 million, from national contribution. The design of the building and other project preparation activities were financed with a EUR 150 000 grant from the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF), approved in 2009.

"This is a big day for the most vulnerable displaced and internally displaced persons in Pljevlja. They finally received something that most of us take for granted – a roof above their head. Through the RHP, we are giving back the dignity to the elderly, as stated in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights," said Hermann Spitz, Head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation to Montenegro.



BENEFICIARY STORY: NENAD DRAGANIC HERCEG NOVI



In May 1992, the war broke out in Konjic, where Nenad lived in a family house with his bedridden mother.

In July, he was first taken to the camp where he stayed for 22 days while his mother was left alone in the house, but thanks to Nenad's aunt, also an elderly woman who remained in the village, she managed to survive until Nenad was released from the camp. In 1994, Nenad's mother died, after suffering from a second stroke and having been in a coma for 42 days without an IV, drugs or any treatment whatsoever.

He will never forget the 31st of December that same year, when he was finally saved from the hellhole of Konjic. His sister who lived in Capljina, Croatia, sent Croatian soldiers to extract him from the village. After being transferred to Capljina where he spent three months at his sister's, he participated in an exchange of prisoners in Debeli Brijeg and was transferred to Montenegro.

Nenad's new life in Bijela began in April 1995 when he came there with a refugee ID. He got a job as a waiter, met his wife, also a refugee, and got married in November that year. Since the restaurant where he worked went out of business soon, 17 years ago, Nenad and his wife started selling doughnuts on the beach in Bijela and that has been their only job ever since. They managed to pay for their son's school from doughnuts, and he studies tourism management now while their daughter is in high school.

It is thanks to doughnuts that Nenad and his wife managed to raise two children, a college and a high school student. In 2017, this family was selected to receive an RHP financed apartment in Herceg Novi. Their dream is to become reality before the end of 2018.

Partner Countries' Highlights



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

FOUNDATION STONE LAID FOR 169 NEW APARTMENTS IN STARA PAZOVA



A number of key RHP stakeholders celebrated on 27 August 2018 the start of construction of 169 new apartments in Stara Pazova, Serbia. With a total cost of close to EUR 4 million, the building complex in Stara Pazova is one of the largest RHP construction sites in Serbia and in the RHP in general. Under SRB5, close to 1 300 new apartments will be constructed; the works have already started in 16 municipalities while the remaining 11 municipalities are currently in the tendering phase.

Ivica Dacic, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia, stated: "Within this sub-project, there are 1 847 housing solutions in preparation, in 27 local communities in Serbia, including Kamendin (Zemun) and Veternik (Novi Sad). Local self-governments, which have a significant role in the implementation of the Regional Housing Programme, have all demonstrated solidarity and strong support to the Programme."

"We are jointly celebrating something new today, something that goes beyond buildings – new lives for many families who have waited for their new homes for many years. European Union is the main partner to the Serbian Government in finding housing solutions for those people, supporting the RHP with a total of EUR 234 million," stated H.E. Sem Fabrizi, Ambassador, Head of Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia.

H.E. Kyle Randolph Scott, U.S. Ambassador to Serbia, said: "With the RHP, we have restored hope and dignity for more than 3 000 families so far. This programme is a unique model of cooperation between the four countries – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro and the donor community." He reminded that the United States has contributed USD 30 million to the RHP Fund. "A house alone is not a home, that's why we also provide free legal aid to refugees, support to entrepreneurship and building material for the finalization of houses," said Ambassador Scott.

FIFTEEN FAMILIES MOVE INTO NEW HOMES IN ARILJE



Keys to their new RHP-financed apartments were handed over on 15 August 2018 to 15 refugee families in Arilje.

Ivica Dacic, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, reaffirmed Serbia's commitment to the RHP and said that 2 102 families – out of the total current target of over 6 000 – have already been able to move into their new homes.

"We hope that our fellow citizens who are moving into the finished buildings today, after two decades of difficulties, will find peace and security in them. I wish them a successful moving in and a happy new beginning."

FOUNDATION STONE LAID FOR A 276-APARTMENT BUILDING IN NOVI SAD

On 7 August 2018, the foundation stone was laid in Novi Sad to build the largest RHP-financed apartment building, which will house 276 refugee families once completed in 2019. This is part of the sub-project SRB5, which will provide housing to 1 847 most vulnerable RHP beneficiary families throughout the country.

The estimated total cost is around EUR 52 million. EUR 39 million is financed by the RHP donors while Serbia co-finances this sub-project with approximately EUR 13 million. Mateja Norcic Stamcar, Deputy Head of the European Union's Delegation to Serbia, congratulated Serbia for its progress in the RHP and reiterated the support of the European Union to the Programme.



"I would like to express our contentment for the great improvements that have been accomplished over the past 20 years in Serbia in the provision of housing and local integration for refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia," stated Hans Schodder, Head of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Mission in Serbia.

Partner Countries' Highlights

HANDING OVER OF KEYS OF 40 APARTMENTS IN SREMSKA MITROVICA

On 20 July 2018, keys to newly-built apartments were handed over to 40 RHP beneficiary families in Sremska Mitrovica. First Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ivica Dacic thanked everyone who recognized the importance of the Regional Housing Programme and has contributed to its development and progress – the European Union, the United States of America, Germany, Italy, Norway, Switzerland and all the other donors. He said that the support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the OSCE in the implementation of the Programme is of particular importance to Serbia, and the role of the Council of Europe Development Bank in managing the trust fund is of paramount importance.



"We are in the stage when we are building apartments in a large number of cities throughout Serbia and we are delivering other forms of housing solutions. I wish you a long, healthy and happy life in your new homes," said Commissioner for Refugees of the Republic of Serbia Vladimir Cucic, thanking the beneficiaries - who have been waiting for their homes for the past twenty years - for their patience.

Yngve Engstroem, Head of Operations at the Delegation of the European Union to Serbia, declared that the European Union, together with the Republic of Serbia, is very committed to the common goal, which is to provide housing for the remaining most vulnerable refugees from the war in the former Yugoslavia. "Our goal is to complete a total of 3,800 housing units by the end of 2018".

BENEFICIARY STORY: JOVICIC FAMILY, SREMSKA MITROVICA



In July 2018, Branislav and Vida Jovicic received the keys to their new RHP funded apartment in Sremska Mitrovica.

Branislav fled from Istria, Croatia to Sremska Mitrovica, in 1993. Before the war, he used to work on ships and travelled the sea many times, including far away destinations like Panama and Chile. Since the beginning of the war, he lived as a tenant in and around Sremska Mitrovica, moving between apartments and temporary jobs several times. He made the ends meet for his family of three by working at times as a seasonal worker in agriculture, as a handy man or in construction.

"Back then, my wife and I applied several times for refugee assistance. Once we received some chickens, when we had a yard in the house", says Branislav and emphasizes how the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of Serbia supported him and kept constant contact. Unfortunately, the hardship of being a refugee bore a heavy toll on him and his family. He and his wife got divorced and Branislav suffered a nervous breakdown and was hospitalized. In the hospital, Branislav's and Vida's paths crossed. Vida was hospitalised after she and her three children were physically abused by her ex-husband. She recounts how they left the hospital together after having spent a month there: "He was carrying a suitcase and I had a bag. These were our only possessions; but we were married to each other." Having now lost all members of her family, Branislav is Vida's only companion: "He is my ray of light, with his positive attitude, always ready to crack a joke and lend a helping hand."

They have been living together for six years. They applied for a housing solution to the Commissariat. "We could have received a village house, but we are too old to work around the house. Now it's important for us to live in the vicinity of social service providers, health care and amenities", explains Branislav. "This is the first time I have applied for a housing solution and it worked! There must be some magic to it!" concludes Branislav, who also works as an amateur magician.

Thanks to the RHP, Branislav and Vida can now enjoy a new chapter in their lives in their new home in Sremska Mitrovica.

CONSTRUCTION OF 25 APARTMENTS STARTS IN KIKINDA

On 21 April 2018, the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migration hosted an event to lay the foundation stone for the construction of 25 apartments for refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, who are resident in the territory of Kikinda.

This project is part of the sub-project SRB2, which aims at providing housing solutions to an estimated 895 vulnerable RHP beneficiary families in Serbia or around 2 600 persons. The entire sub-project is worth EUR 13 million. Besides Kikinda, construction sites have been opened in seven cities across Serbia: in Sremska Mitrovica, Bajina Basta, Paracin, Krusevac, Prokuplje, Vrsac and Sabac.

In addition to the construction of 200 apartments, SRB2 covers the construction of 120 prefabricated houses, the provision of 330 packages of building materials and the purchase of 245 village houses throughout the country.



RHP Fund Status

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW OF THE RHP

At end-August 2018, the financial situation of the RHP can be summarised by the following figures:

Contributions pledged		284
Contributions signed	204 Housing	40 Support
Grants approved		230
Grants signed		190
Costs incurred		64

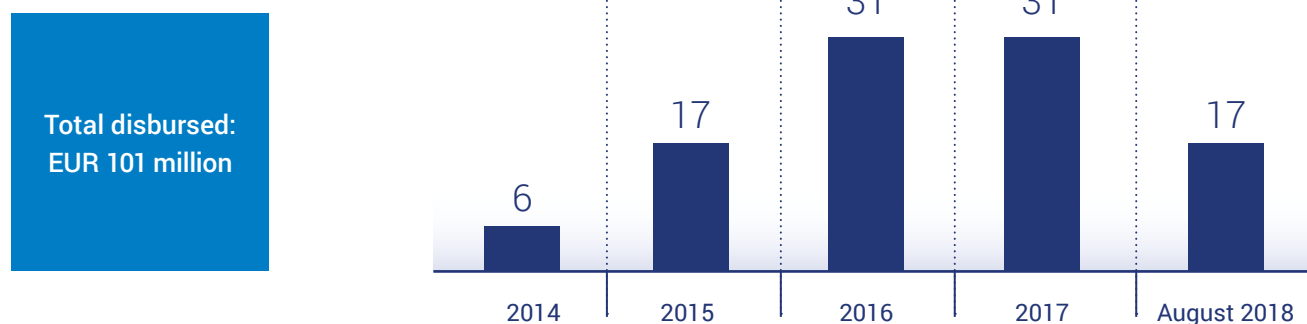
CONTRIBUTIONS BY DONORS

The Donors have pledged a total of EUR 244 million to the RHP Fund, of which they have committed EUR 204 million. The European Union is to contribute a further EUR 40 million to the Fund still in 2018. Taking into account the EUR 40 million contributed by the European Union outside the RHP Fund, for implementation support activities, these additional funds brings its total contribution to the RHP to EUR 234 million, thus confirming its status as the largest donor to the Programme. Furthermore, at mid-2018, Spain joined the RHP as a new donor, committing EUR 168 000 for Technical Assistance in favour of the Partner Countries.

DISBURSEMENTS TO PARTNER COUNTRIES

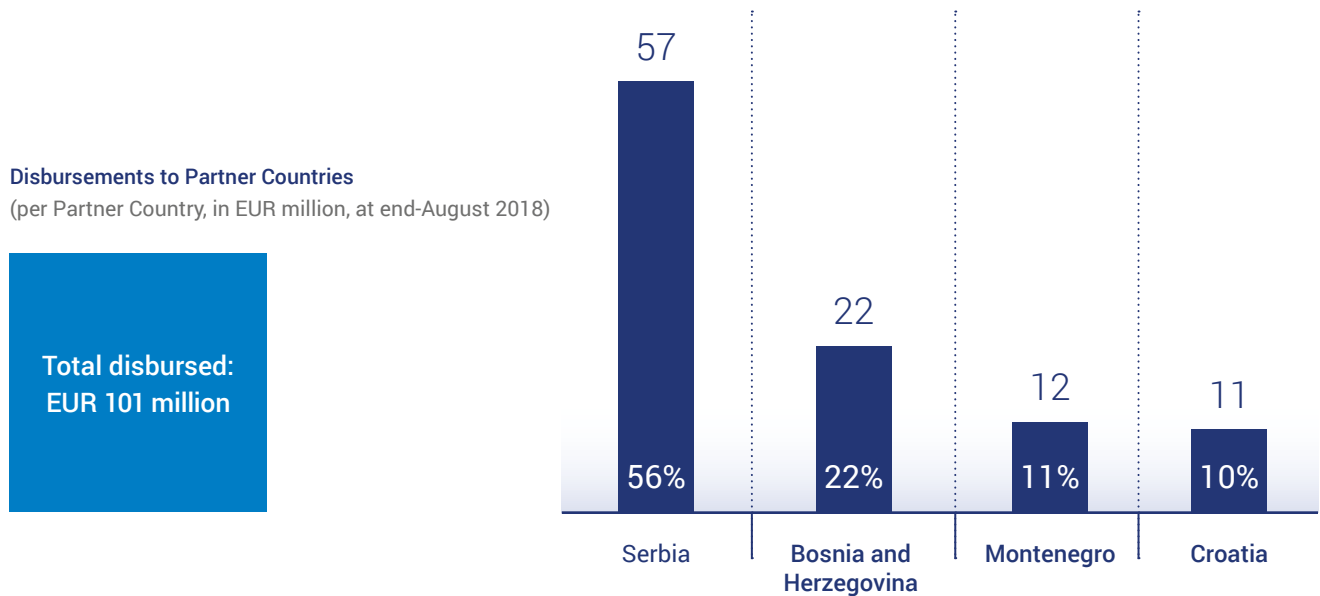
During the reporting period, six disbursements for a total amount of EUR 12 million have been made, in favour of sub-projects in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia. At end-August, 2018 disbursements amounted to EUR 17 million, a figure in line with the previous year and demonstrating that RHP implementation continues at full speed:

Disbursements to Partner Countries
(per year, in EUR million, at end-August 2018)



RHP Fund Status

In terms of grant requests approved by the donors, of the total volume of EUR 230 million of approved sub-projects, EUR 127 million, or 55%, went to Serbia, an amount that is in line with the country's share of the Programme. Serbia also accounts for the majority of funds disbursed so far, i.e. EUR 57 million out of EUR 101 million, or 56%:

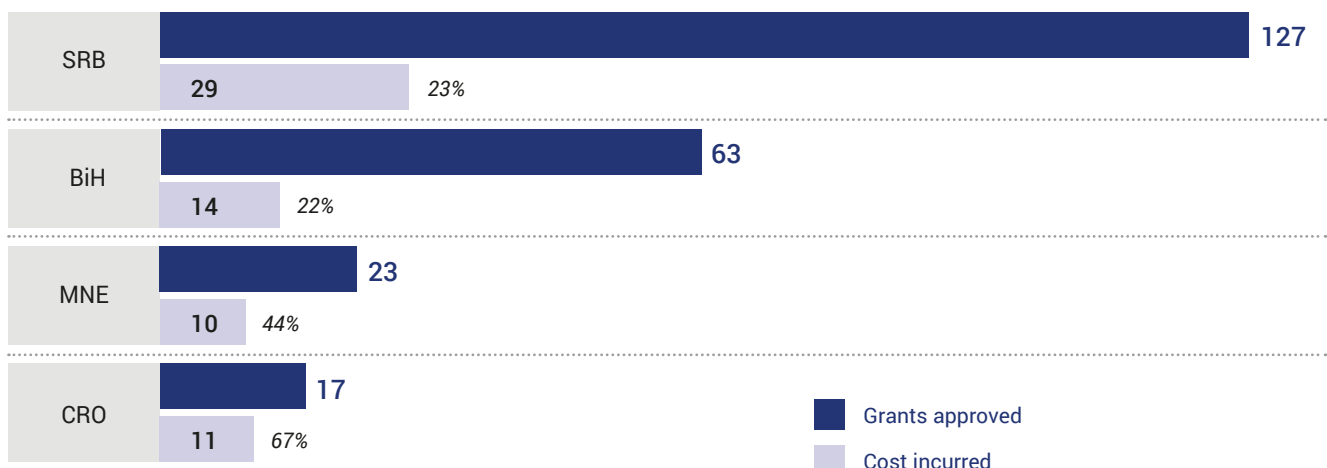


USE OF FUNDS BY PARTNER COUNTRIES

The Partner Countries made use of the grant funds approved in their favour to the following extent:

Use of funds by the Partner Countries

(per Partner Country, in EUR million, at end-August 2018)



Regional Activities

RHP DONORS HIGHLIGHT GOOD PROGRESS AND APPROVE NEW GRANTS: FURTHER 5 400 VULNERABLE BENEFICIARIES TO GET DURABLE HOMES

The RHP stakeholders held their joint bi-annual meeting on 6 June 2018 in Zagreb, Croatia. Seven new sub-projects and one extension were approved, bringing the total amount of grants approved to EUR 230 million. The number of final beneficiaries is estimated to reach 34 000 persons.

The European Union (EU) and the United States of America (USA) praised the Partner Countries for the great progress that the RHP is now making and thanked the UNHCR, the OSCE and the CEB for their dedication and support.

On behalf of the European Union which is the main Donor to the RHP, Colin Wolfe, Head of Unit for Western Balkans Regional Cooperation in the European Commission's DG NEAR, highlighted that the EU supports the RHP because it makes a difference for the citizens of the Western Balkans. The RHP is an investment in peace, reconciliation, stability, good neighbourly relations and prosperity of the Western Balkans and of Europe at large, in line with the commitments made recently, underlined in the Sofia Declaration.

"The RHP continues to embody the spirit of regional cooperation that is necessary to find lasting solutions for refugees and displaced people. The United States has contributed 30 million dollars directly to this worthwhile cause and we will continue our close involvement to see the project through to its end. We commend the Partner Countries on their continued collaboration and on the progress made so far, and on the progress made in the last year in particular," stated Marta Costanzo Youth, Director, Office of Europe, Central Asia, and the Americas, Bureau of Population, Refugees & Migration, U.S. Department of State.

Semiha Borovac, Minister of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, highlighted that the RHP not only provides the most vulnerable with access to decent living conditions, but it also contributes to poverty reduction by creating jobs and improving the living standards of entire host communities.

UNHCR and OSCE representatives congratulated the Partner Countries for the overall positive results achieved in the first half of 2018, including genuinely strong and effective regional co-operation, as well as its positive "side-effects", such as reconciliation.

Stephan Sellen, CEB's Deputy Director General for Loans and Social Development, informed the meeting participants that Spain has recently agreed to provide a EUR 168 000 grant to the RHP from the "Spanish Social Cohesion Account" which the CEB manages. These funds will allow Croatia to continue to receive technical assistance for RHP implementation.

18TH WORLD REFUGEE DAY – 20 JUNE 2018

20 June 2018 marked the 18th anniversary of the international observance of the World Refugee Day. The Council of Europe Development Bank presented the latest results of the RHP by introducing some of its beneficiaries in each of the four Partner Countries which are implementing the programme: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia.

Four RHP beneficiary clips and two short RHP films, presenting the main achievements of the programme, were posted on RHP and partner institutions' web-sites.

Get the latest information on RHP here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=soVqOzqVgo0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m0coFvns6k4>

Meet some RHP beneficiaries here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IT3jKeBvVCY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnmF5Fhm358>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjpu-Hlth8I>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3D2qxuwacOE>

RHP People



In September 2017, Daniel Hurtado-Domínguez joined the Unit for Regional Cooperation in the Western Balkans in the European Commission, with a specific responsibility for the Regional Housing Programme. He brings over 20 years of project management experience in the European institutions and in civil society organisations, including service in the EU Delegations in Montenegro, Zambia and Sierra Leone.



We would like to thank Sam Healy for his invaluable professional and personal contribution to the RHP and wish him all the best in his retirement. We would also like to welcome Timothy Swett who is replacing Sam Healy as the U.S. Department of State's Regional Refugee Coordinator based in Belgrade. Timothy Swett has long career in the field of humanitarian aid and assistance to refugees. His latest assignment, from May 2015 to June 2018, was in Amman where he was a Regional Refugee Coordinator, responsible for promoting refugee protection through the Embassy's humanitarian diplomacy efforts as well as overseeing more than \$300 million in annual U.S. humanitarian funding.



Upcoming Activities (September - December 2018)

RHP Visibility Events

- **6 September 2018**
Start of works on an apartment building (20 apartments), Ub, Serbia (SRB5)
- **17 September 2018**
Completion of works on an apartment building (62 apartments)/beneficiaries moving in, Zenica, BiH (BiH3)
- **3-4 October 2018**
20th Technical Committee and 24th Regional Coordination Forum, Sarajevo, BiH
- **4 October 2018**
Completion of works on an apartment building (16 apartments)/beneficiaries moving in, Olovo, BiH (BiH3)
- **Second week of October 2018**
Completion of works on 2 apartment buildings for 20 families/beneficiaries moving in, Temerin, Serbia (SRB4)
- **Mid-October 2018**
Delivery of keys to reconstructed houses, Croatia (HR6)
- **Second half of October**
Completion of works on an apartment building for 11 families/beneficiaries moving in, Kladovo, Serbia (SRB4)
- **End-October 2018**
Completion of works on apartment buildings (51 apartments)/beneficiaries moving in, Konik, Montenegro (MNE2)
- **Beginning of November 2018**
Completion of works on 94 apartments/beneficiaries moving in, Berane, Montenegro (MNE4)
- **Mid-November 2018**
Completion of works on an apartment building/beneficiaries moving in, Zrenjanin, Serbia (SRB4)
- **27 November 2018**
17th RHP Fund Assembly of Donors
13th RHP Steering Committee meetings, Paris, France
- **Mid December 2018**
Completion of works on an apartment building/beneficiaries moving in, Golubinci, Serbia (SRB4)



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

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