



Regional  
Housing  
Programme

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# NEWSLETTER No7

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JANUARY - MARCH 2016







# Cover Story



## MONTENEGRO LAUNCHED CONSTRUCTION OF 120 APARTMENTS IN KONIK

The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare of Montenegro organized on 23 March 2016 a visit to the construction site in Konik, near Podgorica, where the construction works on 120 apartments have now started. The apartments will be inhabited by the most vulnerable Roma families from Camp Konik 1, with the status of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from Kosovo or foreigners with permanent or temporary residence in Montenegro. The project should be finalised in the second half of 2017. Following the successful implementation of the project in Niksic, scheduled to be finalised in May this year and which will provide homes to 62 vulnerable families, this is the second RHP project being implemented in Montenegro.

In addition to the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Ms Zorica Kovacevic, the event was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Vujica Lazovic, Mayor of Podgorica Mr Slavoljub Stjepovic, as well as representatives of the RHP donor community, H.E. Mr Mitja Drobic, Ambassador, Head of EU Delegation to Montenegro, H.E. Ms Margaret Ann Uyehara, Ambassador of the U.S.A. as well as H.E. Ms Gudrun Elisabeth Steinacker, Ambassador of Germany. The representatives of UNHCR and OSCE were also present at the site.

Minister Kovacevic expressed her gratitude to the donors for their understanding of the long-standing IDP problem in Montenegro and the region. She said that the whole country had become one big RHP construction site and that she was proud of what has been achieved in a year - the building in Niksic would soon be finished, Konik has been inaugurated today and in a short while, another RHP construction site would become active in Pljevlja.

The RHP project in Camp Konik 1 is part of a wider strategy for the closing of Camp, which also includes the construction of 48 apartments financed by the EU through IPA funds. These apartments were finalised last year and the keys were delivered to selected beneficiaries in December 2015.

# Newsflash

## MORE RHP BENEFICIARY FAMILIES MOVE INTO NEW HOMES

After nearly 20 years of living in dire conditions, several families in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** and **Serbia** were able to finally settle down in new or rehabilitated homes, thanks to RHP-financed pre-fabricated houses, building material packages and reconstruction assistance.

### BENEFICIARY FAMILIES

The Tepsic family in Krnjesevci, Serbia, started to build a house 14 years ago on their own land plot. In October 2014, they received RHP -financed building material packages. One year later, the materials were installed and the house completed, allowing this family to restart their life under much better conditions.



Fehim Gondzic lives with his wife and three children in Olovo, located 50km north-east from Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Gondzic family is one out of 20 families who got a durable housing solution thanks to the RHP last year. Their house was reconstructed, enabling Fehim and his family to finally settle down in their new home.



Another beneficiary family in Olovo that received housing assistance are brothers Ramiz and Asim Hasanagic. The two families have 9 members altogether, and for the past twenty years, they all lived together in the same small old house. Their new house is being reconstructed in the same place where their former one used to be located, before it was destroyed during the war.



### 19 MUNICIPALITIES IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA SIGN AGREEMENTS TO IMPLEMENT BiH3

On 26 January 2016, the Minister of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ms Semiha Borovac signed in Sarajevo the implementation agreements with the mayors and heads of 19 local self-governments to launch the implementation of **BiH3 - Construction of 438 flats in multi-apartment buildings for refugees and IDPs in BiH.**

The agreements were also signed by the entity ministers: Minister Edin Ramic on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Displaced Persons and Refugees; Minister Davor Cordas on behalf of the Ministry for Refugees and Displaced Persons of the Republika Srpska and Rifet Mujanovic, Head of the Department for Refugees, Displaced Persons and Housing Affairs of Brcko District.

The project, with a total estimated cost of EUR 14.4 million, targets the local integration of 338 IDPs and 100 returnees from Croatia to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The apartments will be owned by local self-governments which will provide infrastructure as well as other contributions worth approximately EUR 2 million. The remaining EUR 12.4 million will be financed from the RHP Fund.

So far, the Assembly of Donors has approved four projects for BiH, with a total value of approximately EUR 40 million, which should ensure housing for around 1 870 families in 70 towns and municipalities throughout BiH. The first project approved is currently in progress and it will ensure housing for 170 families, 20 of which have already been provided with construction material, whereas 150 will be given turnkey reconstruction assistance for their new homes in 2016.





# Partner Countries' Highlights



## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

### BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA SIGNED GRANT AGREEMENT FOR BIH4

Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Finance and Treasury of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr Vjekoslav Bevanda, signed on 3 February 2016 in Sarajevo the Grant Agreement for **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**. The grant amounting to EUR 8.6 million covers 89% of the total estimated project cost.

Minister of Human Rights and Refugees, Ms Semiha Borovac, who was also present at the signing ceremony, emphasized that the RHP is the largest project implemented by the Government, after the construction of the pan-European highway project "Corridor VC". She reminded that the RHP should provide housing solutions for 5 400 families or 14 000 refugees and displaced persons in the country. Deputy Director General of Loans and Social Development Directorate of CEB, Mr Stephan Sellen, said that the project will not only provide decent living conditions to close to 500 vulnerable families, but it will also prove what can be achieved thanks to the regional cooperation, which is one of the most valuable features and added value of the RHP.

The signing ceremony was also attended by RHP donors and partner representatives from the U.S. Embassy as well as from UNHCR and OSCE delegations to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### 20 MUNICIPALITIES SIGN AGREEMENTS TO IMPLEMENT BIH2

On 15 February 2016, the BiH Federation Government hosted the ceremony of signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the implementation of **BiH2 - Provision of housing solutions to 780 households for return and reintegration or local integration**, which is to result in the reconstruction and building of 380 housing units in 20 municipalities in the Federation of BiH.

Minister of Human Rights and Refugees, Ms Semiha Borovac welcomed the signature of the agreements, emphasising the important role that municipalities are playing in the RHP implementation in BiH.

On 15 June 2016, the signing of a similar MoU to ensure 400 housing units is expected to be signed with municipalities in Republika Srpska.

# Partner Countries' Highlights



## REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

### IMPLEMENTATION OF ALL PROJECTS IN CROATIA PROGRESSING

After the successful completion of the project in Korenica, where an apartment building for 29 families was finished in autumn 2015, three more construction sites are now active: Glina, Knin and Benkovac. For this latter location, works are scheduled to start in early April 2016.

In Knin, the construction of two residential buildings to accommodate 40 families is progressing according to schedule. The concrete slab of the basement is finished and walls are being constructed on the first floor. The completion is foreseen in the first half of 2017.

In Glina, the reconstruction and extension of an Elderly home is progressing as planned and is estimated to be finished during the first half of 2017.

### HIGH OFFICIALS' MEETING HELD IN GLINA

On Wednesday 23 March 2016, Mr Ivo Zinic, Sisak-Moslavina County Prefect, visited Glina together with his associates. The Mayor of Glina, Mr Stjepan Kostanjevic, and his deputy, Ms Sanja Stingl Vlasic received the Prefect and his delegation in the City Hall. The visiting delegation was briefed on the main problems and challenges in Glina, and also on the progress of reconstruction works.

The Prefect emphasised that this visit to Glina represents the fulfilment of the promise that the County government and local authorities will cooperate in the development of projects: "The most important topics of today's meeting were economic development, youth employment, education and reconstruction of local infrastructure e.g. roads, water supply and sewerage", said the Prefect.

"We also intend to establish this cooperation at the social level, like opening of the Music school in Glina," said the Prefect. After the meeting, the representatives also visited the construction site of the Home for the elderly and disabled, financed from the RHP Fund.



## MONTENEGRO

### TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 120 HOUSING UNITS IN KONIK CAMP SUCCESSFULLY FINISHED

On 11 February 2016, Ms Zorica Kovacevic, Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, and Zarko Zivkovic, director of the Directorate for Public Works signed the contract with the Consortium "LD gradnja" for the construction of housing units for 120 most vulnerable families from Konik Camp. At the same occasion, a contract was also signed with the representatives of the consortium "ING Invest" for the works supervision.

The public procurement procedure was prepared and realized by the Directorate for Public Works. On the same day, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, the Directorate for Public Works and the City of Podgorica signed an agreement for the implementation of the RHP in Podgorica, covering issues such as the realisation of the construction works, beneficiary selection, ownership and maintenance of the Konik Camp.

# Partner Countries' Highlights



## REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

### RHP PRESENTED AT THE BELGRADE CITY HALL

On 4 March 2016, the Mayor of Belgrade hosted an event to present RHP investments in Belgrade, which now stand at EUR 18.5 million. This was the opportunity to showcase current and future projects in Belgrade financed from the RHP Fund which will provide durable housing to around 2 700 vulnerable families.

In addition, the City of Belgrade, the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration and the PIU "Research and Development" profited from this occasion to sign the implementing agreement for the construction of 270 apartments in Belgrade's municipality of Zemun, Kamendin location.

RHP is also investing in another project in Belgrade, which will comprise the following: construction of 235 apartments in Ovca, construction of 80 prefabricated houses, provision of 350 building material packages and purchase of 50 village houses. All housing solutions in the City of Belgrade are estimated to be completed by the end of 2017.

The event gathered high level representatives of the RHP stakeholders in Serbia, namely: Mr Ivica Dacic, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs;

Mr Sinisa Mali, Mayor of Belgrade; Mr Oscar Benedict, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation, and H.E. Mr Kyle Scott, U.S. Ambassador. In addition, representatives of the RHP partner organizations CEB, UNHCR and OSCE were also present at the event, as well as representatives of RHP donors such as Norway, Switzerland and Germany.

Mr Ivica Dacic said that on this occasion several thousand families are to be given their homes thanks to the RHP in Serbia. "We must bear in mind this very fact that binds us, while investing every effort to finish this job. The RHP in Serbia is in its full swing and in 2016 further accomplishments on the ground are expected".

The Mayor of Belgrade, Mr Sinisa Mali, said that the RHP in Serbia is of great importance for the most vulnerable refugees in the territory of the City of Belgrade. "Our capital has been under the largest pressure in terms of the refugee crisis, but it is also investing large effort and giving contribution so as to provide all of those who lost their homes with permanent housing solutions".



# RHP Fund Status

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW OF THE RHP

At end-March 2016, the financial situation of the RHP can be summarized by the following figures:

**Aggregate figures on RHP** (in EUR million, at end-March 2016)

Pledged to RHP		268
Contribution Agreements signed	159 Sub-projects	27 Technical Assistance and PCs' operating costs
Paid into RHP Fund	120	
Grants approved		133
Grant Agreements signed		133
Grants disbursed	39	
Cost incurred	5	

## DISBURSEMENTS FROM JANUARY TO MARCH

**EUR 0.6 million in favour of SRB1** Provision of 70 pre-fabricated houses and 125 packages of building materials for the benefit of 195 families: the second grant tranche in favour of this sub-project was disbursed on 24 February.

**EUR 1.5 million in favour of SRB3** Support to 715 refugee families through four different housing solutions: on 24 February, the first grant tranche for Component 1 was paid out of the RHP Fund.

**EUR 11.5 million in favour of SRB5** Support for the integration of refugees - Subproject V: the first grant tranche in favour of this sub-project was disbursed on 24 February.

**EUR 3.3 million in favour of BiH3** Construction of 438 flats in multi-apartment buildings for local integration of refugees and IDPs in BiH: on 11 March, the first grant tranche was paid out of the RHP Fund.

These four disbursements bring the total amount paid out from the RHP Fund in favour of housing projects to EUR 39.0 million.

## CONTRIBUTIONS BY DONORS

For the record, the Donors have committed EUR 159.4 million, of which they have paid EUR 120.3 million into the RHP Fund. With EUR 121.3 million committed and EUR 84.2 million paid in, the European Union is the main Donor to the RHP Fund.

Contributions committed and paid into the RHP Fund are split as follows

**RHP Fund contributions committed and paid in**

(in EUR million, at end-March 2016)

Total committed EUR 159.4 million

Total paid in EUR 120.3 million

European Union		121.3
	84.2	
USA	15.3	
	15.3	
Norway	5.0	
	5.5	
Germany	5.0	
	5.0	
Switzerland	5.0	
	4.0	
Italy	5.0	
	3.0	
Denmark	1.3	
	1.3	
Turkey	1.0	
	1.0	
Luxembourg	0.5	
	0.5	



# Regional Activities

## KIRS WORKING MEETING GATHERS REPRESENTATIVES FROM RHP PARTNER COUNTRIES

The Commissariat for Refugees and Migration (KIRS) organized a trustees' meeting in Sabac from 29 February to 2 March 2016, dedicated to the implementation of the RHP. The meeting was attended by representatives of other Partner Countries, Project Implementation Units, the TA, and the CEB, UNHCR and OSCE. Prior to the meeting, various working groups related to the Sarajevo process held their regular meetings.

While reporting on what has been achieved over the past year, Commissioner Vladimir Cucic said that the official number of persons accommodated in collective centres has decreased in the past year by almost 9000 persons. Mr Cucic reminded the participants of the meeting that the crisis must not be an excuse for not solving the status of refugees from the former Yugoslavia.

Speaking about the RHP, the representative of the Council of Europe Development Bank Mr Igor Burazin stated that the progress in implementation is significant, adding that the Donors would like to see that funds from the RHP Fund are spent, and that people move into their homes throughout the country.

## RHP REGIONAL COORDINATION FORUM HELD IN PODGORICA IN FEBRUARY

The 16th RCF was held on 3 February in Podgorica, with participants from all Partners Countries and representatives from EU, U.S. and the CEB. Prior to the RCF meeting, the Working Groups related to Public Information Campaigns and Partner Countries' preparation for the RCF held their meetings.

## TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS

**Grant Scheme implementation training:** On 19-22 January 2016, TA provided a training in Belgrade for the representatives of KIRS and PIU. The aim was to train the Grant Scheme Project Managers and the implementation teams in PIU and KIRS to understand the rules and principles of the Grant Scheme management and implementation from the side of the Contracting Authority.

**Grant Scheme project preparation and implementation for grant applicants:** On 25-27 January 2016, TA organized a workshop in Belgrade to train the local self-governments to understand the rules and principles of Grant Scheme implementation from the applicant's side.

**Risk Management Workshop:** On 10-11 February 2016, CEB provided a workshop in Vlasica for Bosnia and Herzegovina RHP implementation structures, Return Fund, UNHCR and OSCE to develop a tailor made RHP Risk Register, together with tools to manage the identified risks.

# RHP People

In March 2016, the Government of the Republic of Croatia appointed Mr Nikola Mazar as the new Head of the State Office for Reconstruction and Housing Care (SOHRC) replacing Ms Mirela Stanic Popovic who held the position since 2013.

RHP would like to acknowledge Ms Stanic Popovic's efforts and outstanding work during her tenure as Head of the SOHRC. Thanks to her professionalism and commitment to RHP, the first beneficiaries moved into their new homes in Croatia during her tenure.

## Upcoming Activities (April-June 2016)

### RHP Events

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#### **4 April 2016**

Start of works on HR5 - Construction of a residential building for 21 families, Benkovac, Croatia

#### **12 April 2016**

Handing over of keys to beneficiaries of reconstructed houses under BiH1 - Provision of building materials to 20 families and turnkey reconstruction assistance to 150 families Olovo, Bosnia and herzegovina

#### **End-May 2016**

Start of works on MNE3 - Construction of a Home for 68 elderly/handicapped persons, Pljevlja, Montenegro

#### **May 2016**

End of works on MNE1 - Construction of two blocks of flats for 62 IDP families, and delivery of keys to beneficiaries, Niksic, Montenegro

#### **End-May 2016**

Families moving into pre-fabricated houses under SRB1 - Provision of 125 building material packages and 70 prefabricated houses to the benefit of 195 households, Serbia

### RHP Meetings

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#### **11 May 2016**

17<sup>th</sup> Regional Coordination Forum, Zagreb, Croatia

#### **8 June 2016**

12<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee, Paris, France

#### **28-29 June 2016**

12<sup>th</sup> Assembly of Donors / 8th RHP Steering Committee, Sarajevo, BiH







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 was set up to offer durable housing to 74,000 vulnerable individuals who became refugees or displaced persons following the 1991-1995 conflicts on the territory of former Yugoslavia.

[www.regionalhousingprogramme.org](http://www.regionalhousingprogramme.org)

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