

RHP FUND OPERATIONAL REPORT 2018



MARCH 2019

Prepared by the Council of Europe Development Bank

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Picture on the cover page:

Delivery of keys to 235 apartments in Ovca, Serbia, March 2018

What is the Regional Housing Programme?

As a consequence of the armed conflicts in the 1990s, over three million people were displaced both within and beyond the borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia.

Over the past two decades, sustained efforts by the four affected states as well as support from the international community have enabled the majority of those affected to return home or find other durable solutions. Despite these considerable efforts, almost half a million people remain displaced throughout the region.

The Regional Housing Programme (RHP) – a joint initiative by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia (the Partner Countries) – was set up in 2012 to address this protracted displacement situation. Its aim is to provide sustainable housing to the most vulnerable refugees and displaced persons following the 1991-1995 conflicts on the territory of former Yugoslavia, including internally displaced persons in Montenegro from 1999. In the Belgrade Declaration of 7 November 2011, the RHP Partner Countries committed themselves to the principle of respect for the rights of refugees and internally displaced persons and to the mutual obligation to closely coordinate activities in order to ensure truly durable solutions, either through voluntary return and reintegration or local integration of the displaced.

The RHP consists of four individual Country Housing Projects, each implemented at country level. Contrary to most other housing projects in the region, the RHP is not just about providing housing. It is also about fostering the institutional capacity of the Partner Countries to deliver sustainable housing solutions not just to RHP beneficiaries but also to other population groups with unmet housing needs. Thanks to its regional character, the RHP encourages the four Partner Countries to co-operate closely in solving common problems, thereby improving neighbourly relations and fostering security and stability in the region.

The objective is that, by the time it is completed at end-2021, the RHP will have provided a durable housing solution to over 11 000 most vulnerable families – or some 34 000 persons- in the four Partner Countries.

Forewords by CEB and European Union



Rolf Wenzel

Governor
CEB

The CEB was established more than sixty years ago to help persons displaced during the aftermath of the second world war. Over the past sixty years, the Bank has gradually broadened its mandate. Nowadays, the Bank strives to make Europe more inclusive. Yet, assisting migrants and refugees remains a priority mission. The Regional Housing Programme, in which the Bank plays a key role, illustrates the value of addressing displacement situations.

The Programme has obvious humanitarian benefits. Once it is completed in 2021, the Regional Housing Programme will have considerably improved the living conditions of more than 34 000 vulnerable persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia. Having lived for the past twenty years in dire conditions, these people will, at long last, enjoy decent homes.

But the benefits of the Programme are much broader. The Programme fosters reconciliation between the Partner Countries and paves the way for broader cooperation. In doing so, it contributes to the stability and prosperity of the Balkan region and, as a result, of Europe at large.

With the support of the international community, and in particular the European Union, the four Partner Countries are addressing the legacy of the past and building a better future for their citizens. Thanks to the sustained commitment of all stakeholders, considerable results have already been achieved. By end-2018, the number of beneficiaries served by the Programme has reached 12 000, a 50% increase compared to the previous year. But a lot remains to be done if the Programme is to serve an additional 22 000 persons over the next three years. The RHP is, and will remain, an ambitious endeavor. The CEB will continue to support the Partner Countries in meeting this challenge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Rolf Wenzel', written in a cursive style.

**Johannes Hahn**

Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy
and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission

The Regional Housing Programme is an excellent example of the European Union and its partners commitment to addressing the consequences of the 1990s conflicts in the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

The Programme changes people's lives. People who have lived for over twenty years often in dire conditions, now enjoy decent homes and can reintegrate in their former communities, or build new lives elsewhere.

To make all this happen, the European Union contributed in 2018 an additional EUR 40 million to RHP. This brings the total value of the Programme to EUR 287 million, of which the EU is the largest donor with EUR 234 million, over 80% of all contributions.

In terms of progress to date, by the end of 2018 the RHP has provided 12 000 people-in-need with quality, durable homes (close to 4 000 housing units). It has also given extra assistance, to improve the lives of these re-housed people, including making sure they can access services (health, education, etc.) and benefit from rights (pensions, allowances, documentation, etc.). In addition, the Programme has supported over 30 000 jobs and given 1 000 contracts to local companies. It has as well improved the skills of workers and the capacity of local businesses and local administrations to deliver better services.

As also stated in the Western Balkans Strategy adopted in February 2018, the EU offers solutions to difficult issues through fostering regional cooperation and neighbourly relations. This is essential for progress on the countries' European paths. Reconciliation will firmly anchor peace, and ensure lasting stability and prosperity in the region.

The European Union's support for the Programme demonstrates its commitment to the principle of solidarity. The Programme is bringing positive change for the people and the region. I encourage the Partner Countries to increase their efforts to implement the Programme and wish all the families a happy and prosperous future in their new homes.



RHP Facts and Figures

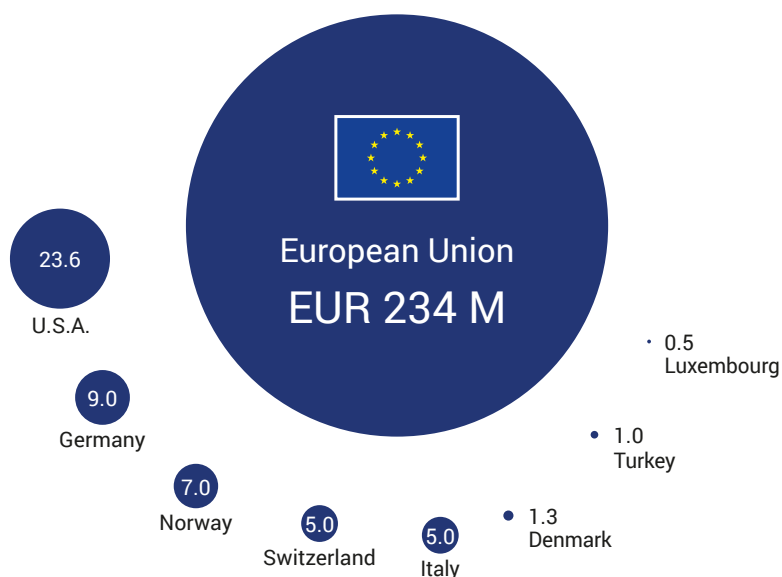
DONORS' CONFERENCE IN SARAJEVO, APRIL 2012



15 DONORS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE RHP



EUR 287 million
CONTRIBUTED BY DONORS



4

PARTNER COUNTRIES
IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAMME

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
CROATIA
MONTENEGRO
SERBIA

3 IMPLEMENTING
PARTNERS



11 800

VULNERABLE
PERSONS
NOW HAVE
DECENT HOMES



MORE THAN

34 000

PEOPLE WILL HAVE
A NEW HOME ONCE
RHP IS COMPLETED



31

SUB-PROJECTS
APPROVED

EUR 235 MILLION

GRANTS APPROVED



EUR 120 MILLION

GRANTS DISBURSED



EUR 52 MILLION

NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION BY
PARTNER COUNTRIES



Meeting RHP Beneficiaries



RISTO AND DUSKO ANDJUSIC, Trebinje, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Risto and Dusko Andjusic are brothers who live with their families in a house built thanks to the Regional Housing Programme. In 1991, the two brothers fled from Dubrovnik, Croatia to Trebinje in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where they both got married and started families. Risto is a father of three, while Dusko has two children. In Trebinje, they moved from one rented house to another until they began building their own house on a plot of land provided by the city. However, due to lack of financial resources, they could not continue with the construction work.

Risto heard about the Regional Housing Programme by chance from an old neighbour. Together with his brother, he immediately met with a representative of the Trebinje Association of Refugees from Croatia, to pick up and fill in the application forms. The surprise was enormous when they were selected as RHP beneficiaries.

"We didn't understand anything back then," the two brothers say. Dusko says that when the construction works started, "we couldn't believe that someone came to build our house... this kind of assistance was more than necessary as we wouldn't have been able to build the house with our own resources".

Shortly thereafter, they were visited by representatives of the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) proposing assistance. Under the complementary measures for social and economic support, they received from the CRS a two-wheel tractor and a mower, which they use to earn additional income by ploughing, transporting crops and mowing.

Risto has been working with the local power distribution company for more than 20 years, while Dusko works in a tool shop. They both have health insurance that covers the whole family. They are also satisfied with the way the local community has accepted them as refugees.



PAJO ZEC, Daruvar, Croatia

Until 1992, Pajo Zec lived with his family in Knezevo, former Skender Vakuf, located in the north-western part of Republika Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina. When the war broke out, the Zec family fled to Daruvar in Slavonia, Croatia. In 1999, Pajo Zec married Nada, originally also from Knezevo, who had moved to Daruvar one year after him.

The Zec family spent the following eight years in an abandoned house in Daruvar, fearing each day that they would have to move out of their temporarily abandoned property. That is precisely what happened in 2000, when the family was forced to move to a rented apartment in the village of Vrbovac near Daruvar.

For the following eighteen years, the Zec family – who now had three children – lived in one room without a bathroom. Pajo worked on construction sites trying to provide for his family. In 2006, he injured his back at work, which forced him to retire two years later. Pajo's wife was unemployed most of the time, taking care of the children.

Thanks to his hard work, Pajo managed to buy a plot of land in the village where they lived, hoping to provide a better childhood for his children.

Thanks to the Regional Housing Programme, the construction of the family's new house began in February 2018, and they moved in in August. "Throughout all these years, we lacked everything but love", says Pajo Zec, while commenting on the time spent without a home of his own. "That's what kept us moving", continues Pajo and adds: "It means so much to me that the children will finally have a spacious and healthy environment to grow up in. They can pursue their activities. My wife and I will be a lot less worried. The hardest part is now over and we have better times ahead".



DRAGANA BULATOVIC, Berane, Montenegro

In 1999, Dragana Bulatovic came from Djakovica (Kosovo) to Berane with her husband, mother-in-law and five children. They settled in the Berane refugee camp, built by UNHCR in 1995 as a temporary solution for refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. Small, two-room houses, built with low quality construction materials, became home to some 100 refugee families from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, and later, for internally displaced persons from Kosovo. The families had to stay in the camp much longer than foreseen as the municipality of Berane is one of the poorest in Montenegro and has been unable to offer a better solution for its residents for the past twenty years.

Today, Dragana has 9 children, seven of them still living with her. Five children go to the local school. Her husband died in 2008 and the family now lives on his EUR 118-a-month pension. The eldest son works as a construction worker whenever he can find work, thus helping this 8-member family get by.

Most families in the Berane collective centre have been living in the same dire conditions as the Bulatovic family. In particular, they were unable to pay their electricity bills and were therefore forced to live without electricity for years. They would buy only food that could be eaten within a day as the refrigerators were not working. The children had to finish their homework during daylight hours. During the cold winter months, in this mountain area, they would burn in their furnaces anything they could find in order to keep the room temperature bearable.

In early 2019, Dragana and her children will finally be able to live in decent conditions when they move into one of the 94 apartments in the newly constructed RHP building in Berane.



BILJANA VASIC, Sremska Mitrovica, Serbia

Biljana came from Bugojno, Bosnia and Herzegovina, in 1991, together with her parents and two older brothers, when she was only four years old. Images of the big family house, surrounded by fields and a small forest, are still vivid in her mind, and she will always cherish those memories.

Biljana's father worked in a local factory and, together with his wife, cultivated the fertile land behind the house, providing for everything the three children needed for a happy childhood.

When they fled from Bigojno, Biljana's father and her two brothers were in the army. Her mother grabbed her four-year-old daughter and her old parents, put them on a tractor and drove to Banja Luka, where they stayed with Biljana's aunt for six months.

In 2002, they moved to Serbia to stay with relatives in Kuzmin, a village near Sremska Mitrovica. Biljana continued her high school studies and soon got married. After divorcing, she returned to her parents' house in Kuzmin, which they had managed to buy on credit. Biljana and her son, her parents and both her brothers, lived together in that house for years.

Biljana works in a burger shop in Sremska Mitrovica, commuting every day from Kuzmin. She said that she had felt welcome since the day she arrived in Serbia, and that she feels that she belongs there. Her employer and her colleagues explain how Biljana has a gift for creating a cheerful working atmosphere, as she always arrives with a big smile on her face.

In July 2018, Biljana and her son moved to the newly built apartment building in Sremska Mitrovica. Life is much easier for her now, as she does not have to commute daily. Her son will soon join a school which is very close to their new home. Biljana says that, somehow, everything finally fell into place.

Main Achievements in 2018

4 000 ADDITIONAL BENEFICIARIES PROVIDED WITH DECENT HOMES

In 2018, approximately 4 000 vulnerable beneficiaries moved into new RHP-financed homes, having lived in very harsh conditions for two decades. The new housing deliveries in the four Partner Countries brought the total number of individuals already supported by the Regional Housing Programme to 12 000.

The number of beneficiaries served per country is in line with the needs expressed by the Partner Countries at the outset of the RHP.

Serbia has the largest number of beneficiaries with 62% of the total number, followed by Bosnia and Herzegovina with 20%, Montenegro with 12% and Croatia with 6%.

SUSTAINED DONOR SUPPORT

In recognition of the Programme's progress and its tangible impact on regional reconciliation, Donors made sizeable new contributions to the RHP in 2018. The European Union, represented by the European Commission, committed an additional EUR 40 million. This new contribution confirmed the European Union's status as the largest donor to this Programme, with approximately EUR 234 million committed, representing more than 80% of total contributions.

Germany contributed an additional EUR 1.5 million, thus bringing its total contribution to EUR 9 million. Germany is the third largest contributor to the Programme, after the European Union and the United States of America.

These new contributions brought the overall amount contributed to the RHP to EUR 287 million. Moreover, they constitute an important milestone: Donors have now made good on all the pledges they made to the Programme at the Donor Conference in Sarajevo in 2012.

CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

The RHP is expected to deliver homes to 34 000 beneficiaries scattered across the four Partner Countries. Moreover, beneficiaries may choose between various housing modalities, depending on their needs: a village house; a flat; reconstruction aid for their dilapidated house; a building material package to complete the construction of an existing house; a room in a home for the elderly, and so forth.

To implement a programme of such magnitude efficiently, it is indispensable to have systems and procedures in line with international standards. To help the Partner Countries achieve such standards, they are provided with comprehensive technical assistance, predominantly financed by the European Commission and, since 2018, partially by Spain. The support provided in 2018 focussed on procurement: indeed, with over 1 300 contracts concluded so far by the Partner Countries, a smooth procurement process is key to ensuring that tight implementation deadlines are met.

The main bulk of the technical assistance, which is embedded in the Partner Country implementing structures, is provided by a consortium comprising EPTISA, GIZ and the Danish Refugee Council. The CEB is entrusted with overseeing and coordinating all RHP implementation support activities, including the technical assistance.



LEGACY

In light of the steady progress achieved over the past years, the RHP stakeholders have concluded that the Programme has brought about important lessons that could inform future initiatives. Indeed, the RHP can serve as a blueprint for integration initiatives or for addressing protracted displacement situations in the region and beyond.

To this end, in 2018, preparations went ahead to capture all the transferable knowledge and lessons learnt from the RHP to-date – in other words, to identify what the “RHP legacy” is.

The results of this exercise will be disseminated in 2019 and beyond, after thorough consultations with the stakeholders.

SUSTAINABILITY REMAINED IN FOCUS

As more and more vulnerable families accessed a housing solution in 2018, their sustainability prospects remained a key area of focus. Indeed, while the RHP is mainly about providing homes, the beneficiaries also need access to public services such as schools, health care etc., as well as assistance in developing income-generating activities. Thanks to several country-specific analyses carried out during the year, the RHP stakeholders achieved a better understanding of the sustainability gaps in each Partner Country.

The RHP has proven to be a useful platform that creates synergies between different actors, allowing not just the delivery of homes but also the provision of complementary sustainability measures to the beneficiaries.

Besides the UNHCR and the OSCE - whose role is fundamental in this particular field - a number of non-governmental organisations such as the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) have been actively participating in activities that reinforce the sustainability outlook of the RHP.

OUTLOOK FOR 2019

2019 will be a record year for the RHP: over 9 000 persons are expected to receive new homes during the year. In 2020 and 2021, another 14 000 beneficiaries should access new homes. This intensive delivery pace requires continued efforts from the Partner Countries, underpinned by solid support from the RHP Donors, the UNHCR, the OSCE and the CEB. But the challenge is well worth it: by the time the Programme is completed in 2021, 34 000 persons will have new homes.

As in 2018, the year 2019 will be rich with visibility events, bringing together all the stakeholders to jointly celebrate the start of new lives for thousands of RHP beneficiaries.





RHP COUNTRY HOUSING PROJECT

Bosnia and Herzegovina



Semiha Borovac

*Minister for Human Rights and Refugees
Bosnia and Herzegovina*

Within the RHP framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina, all in all, adequate and quality housing solutions will be provided for 3 192 households, corresponding to more than 10 000 refugees, displaced persons and returnees in BiH.

812 housing units had been completed by the end of 2018. In 2019, 760 housing units are planned to be delivered, while 1 620 housing solutions will be provided in 2020 and 2021. In addition to housing assistance, complementary measures for the socio-economic sustainability of RHP beneficiaries have so far been successfully provided for 433 families in BiH.

One significant value of the Programme lies in the continuation of successful regional cooperation among the four Partner Countries, which leads to strengthening reconciliation, coexistence and prosperity in the region.

Key Facts and Figures



Grants approved

€ 63 million

Grants disbursed

€ 27 million

National contribution

€ 11 million





RHP COUNTRY HOUSING PROJECT

Croatia



Nikola Mažar

*State Secretary
Central State Office
for Reconstruction and Housing Care
Croatia*

In the course of the year 2018, the Republic of Croatia continued its successful implementation of projects within the scope of the Regional Housing Programme: 98 housing units were delivered to beneficiaries.

Bearing in mind that “even the last” beneficiary has to be provided with a housing solution, Croatia is determined to continue implementing one on-going project and the three new ones that were approved by the Assembly of Donors in 2018.

We are looking forward to continuing our fruitful future cooperation with all stakeholders included in the Regional Housing Programme.

Key Facts and Figures



Grants approved

€ 17 million

Grants disbursed

€ 11 million

National contribution

€ 6 million

9

Number of sub-projects
approved

1 000

Number of beneficiaries
(estimate)



RHP COUNTRY HOUSING PROJECT

Montenegro



Kemal Purišić

*Minister of Labour and Social Welfare
Montenegro*

Montenegro successfully completed another year of implementation of the Regional Housing Programme, with 213 housing solutions provided for 667 most vulnerable displaced persons.

In addition, in the last year, two new grant agreements were signed, approving the construction of new apartments in Podgorica and a home for elderly and handicapped persons in Niksic.

The results achieved in 2018 surpassed all previous years of implementation, and this is the result of enormous efforts, both by national institutions and by our international partners.

With great enthusiasm, we will continue to advocate that the most vulnerable refugee populations achieve full integration in our country.

Key Facts and Figures



Grants approved

€ 23 million

Grants disbursed

€ 12 million

National contribution

€ 4 million

8

Number of sub-projects
approved

2 000

Number of beneficiaries
(estimate)



RHP COUNTRY HOUSING PROJECT

Serbia



Ivica Dačić

*First Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Serbia*

The Government of Serbia remains strongly engaged in implementation of the RHP thanks to which, to date, more than 2 500 refugee families in Serbia have been provided with a roof over their heads. Families have recently moved into their homes in Zrenjanin, Arilje, Sremska Mitrovica, Belgrade, etc. Construction of more than 1 600 apartments in 50 local self-government units is underway. By the end of the Programme, we expect to have delivered housing solutions to at least 7 000 refugee families in Serbia.

However, providing housing solutions alone is not enough; the Programme's sustainability must also be ensured. It is very important that all Partner Countries fully implement the Sarajevo Process. The good cooperation between the countries, which goes beyond state borders, shows how joint efforts can provide sustainable and durable solutions for the needs of refugees.

Key Facts and Figures



Grants approved

€ 132 million

Grants disbursed

€ 69 million

National contribution

€ 31 million

8

Number of sub-projects
approved

22 000

Number of beneficiaries
(estimate)

Statements by Main Donors



United States of America

Nancy Izzo Jackson

Deputy Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration
U.S. Department of State

I commend Partner Countries and RHP stakeholders on their continued, joint commitment to providing durable, dignified solutions for vulnerable displaced persons, which helped make 2018 such a successful year.

Through its support to international and non-governmental organization partners, the United States helps provide RHP beneficiaries the complete range of assistance necessary to break the cycle of displacement and become self-reliant, whether through access to the local economy or legal documentation to codify their rights. We were encouraged by the intensified focus on sustainability in 2018 and by new commitments from the donor community to support these efforts.

The RHP's legacy will be determined not only by how many individual lives it improved, but also by the lasting, productive, regional connections it fostered and the quality of administrative and institutional capacity it left behind.

We all have witnessed how, through the RHP, cooperation among many stakeholders at numerous levels engenders positive results. As donors, we are committed to helping strengthen this cooperation in 2019.



Germany

Dr. Christian Hellbach

Ambassador, Federal Foreign Office's Special Envoy for South-Eastern Europe, Turkey and the EFTA-States

Germany is a founding member of the Regional Housing Programme, for which it has been a funding contributor since 2012. Six years after the establishment of the Regional Housing Programme, its aim and purpose remain relevant – namely, to build and restore humane housing units for refugees and internally displaced persons in the Partner Countries Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia. This is why Germany again in 2018 made available to the Programme a substantial additional contribution of EUR 1.5 million, bringing Germany's total contributions to EUR 9 million.

The latest increase recognises the intensified pace of implementation in all Partner Countries, as well as what these countries have achieved so far: in addition to the homes that have been built, organisational structures have been created at national and local level and cross border cooperation has been established among the Partner Countries and various actors. All of this forms the basis for successful conclusion of the Programme. This makes the Regional Housing Programme a part of overall efforts to strengthen regional cooperation, thus also helping to draw the Partner Countries, i.e. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, closer to the EU.

Over the next three years, the Partner Countries and all actors affiliated with the Programme will need to step up their efforts if the declared aim of building 11 590 housing units by the end of 2021 is to be achieved. Germany will continue to support both the Programme and the Partner Countries as they work toward this goal, and we wish the Programme every success in 2019.



Norway

Olav Reinertsen

Senior Advisor
Department for European Affairs
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Last year the Regional Housing Programme continued its solid implementation pace with concrete results. The number of housing units delivered was close to 4 000. Furthermore, it is expected that another 3 000 units will be delivered only this year. The outlook for 2019-2021 looks similarly promising and there are several reasons to be optimistic.

However, the Regional Housing Programme does more than providing sustainable housing solutions to the most vulnerable refugees, displaced and internally displaced persons following the conflicts on the territory of the former Yugoslavia. The Programme is also an investment in reconciliation, stability and good neighbourly relations in the entire region. In addition, it will boost prosperity through job creation and economic development.

By preserving the lessons learnt from this Programme in the form of a Legacy Paper, the Partner Countries can more easily design and programme future assistance. It can also be used by the international donor community for policy matters.

Norway is looking forward to cooperating closely with the Partner Countries and the Donors in this Programme. Together we will make it a success.



Italy

Giorgio Marrapodi

Director General for Development Cooperation
Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

After serving in 2017 as co-chair of the RHP, in 2018 Italy continued to fully endorse the activities of the latter. We are particularly satisfied with the results obtained in Bosnia-Herzegovina, one of the Italian Development Cooperation's Priority Countries: by December 2018, the construction of 812 housing units has been completed, while the (re)construction of 781 housing units is currently underway.

More than 10 000 people will be given a new life. Steady progress has been registered also in Serbia, Montenegro and Croatia, while decreasing costs of housing units demonstrate a good use of financial resources.

"Sustainability" is our key word: a target achievable by providing the beneficiaries with electricity services, access to social services, community integration programs. In this framework, Italy reiterates its commitment to supporting transition to a stable, safer and prosperous region as a precondition for the access of the Western Balkans to the great European family represented by the European Union.



Switzerland

Ruth Huber

Ambassador, Vice-Director
Head of Department Cooperation with Eastern Europe
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
Federal Department for Foreign Affairs

The Regional Housing Programme is an important element of the Swiss cooperation with the Western Balkans. Planning, assessing, and implementing the RHP sub-projects includes a continuous learning process for all partners and donors.

SDC welcomes the accelerated implementation of the RHP and the fact that more and more families and people in need can benefit from affordable housing solutions in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Montenegro.

It will be of utmost importance in the remaining years of RHP to put a strong focus on sustainability and the social and economic integration of beneficiaries – an aspect that is already taken into consideration very seriously by the Programme and discussed in depth during the Assemblies of Donors.

Switzerland highly appreciates the positive contribution of RHP at regional level – the various fora of RHP allow the lead institutions of each country to come together and collaborate for a common goal, thus contributing to regional reconciliation!



Complementary Measures

As a complement to the RHP which provides housing solutions, several RHP donors finance, on a bilateral basis, additional measures to increase the sustainability prospects of the beneficiaries.



The European Union has been financing a project aimed at increasing the enrolment of Roma children in a kindergarten in the Vrela Ribnicka settlement in Podgorica, Montenegro. The project is implemented by the Roma Education Fund and is part of the EU-financed initiative in Montenegro named *"Promotion and protection of human rights of Roma, Egyptians and other vulnerable groups"*. This is complementary to the RHP project that financed the construction of 171 new apartments in the nearby Konik area. The RHP will also finance further 96 apartments in Vrela Ribnicka, to be completed in 2021.



The European Union has also been financing music workshops and literacy classes for the children of the Konik Camp in Podgorica (Montenegro), a location where the RHP has delivered 171 apartments. The classes are organised by the Red Cross and financed under a European Union initiative entitled *"Promotion and protection of human rights of Roma, Egyptians and other vulnerable groups"*.



Through the project *“Integrated Support for Displaced Persons and Refugees in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia”*, co-funded by the U.S. Government and the Catholic Relief Services (CRS), around 600 RHP beneficiary families have received support or training in various areas, such as setting up businesses, or have been awarded donations of agricultural machinery, livestock or greenhouses, thereby helping them to become self-reliant.



Switzerland, together with the Catholic Relief Services, has supported an RHP beneficiary family in Kotor Varos, Bosnia and Herzegovina, through a programme named *“Complementary Livelihood Support to the Regional Housing Programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina”*. This single-parent returnee family, with one handicapped child, was living off the mother’s modest pension. Thanks to the financial support provided by the Swiss Secretariat for Migration, the Catholic Relief Services helped the 19-year-old son get a job in a local company, considerably improving the family’s household income. The employer is very satisfied with him and plans to give him a permanent contract.



PUBLICATIONS

RHP Factsheet
January 2018

PLEDGED FUNDS BY DONORS
EUR 284 million

EUROPEAN UNION
€ 232 M

OTHER DONORS
€ 52 M

ONLINE

YouTube

LinkedIn

RHP NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2018

NEWS

Pointing a brighter future to the new RHP apartment - story of Slovakia, Slovakia, Slovakia

Blue future for 11 RHP beneficiary families in Serbia, Serbia

'All is well as long as there is no war, we are healthy and there is peace' - story of Hungary, Hungary, Hungary and Hungary

LINKED IN

Regional Housing Programme

Multi-apartment buildings in Croatia

BRANDING

MEDIA PRESENCE

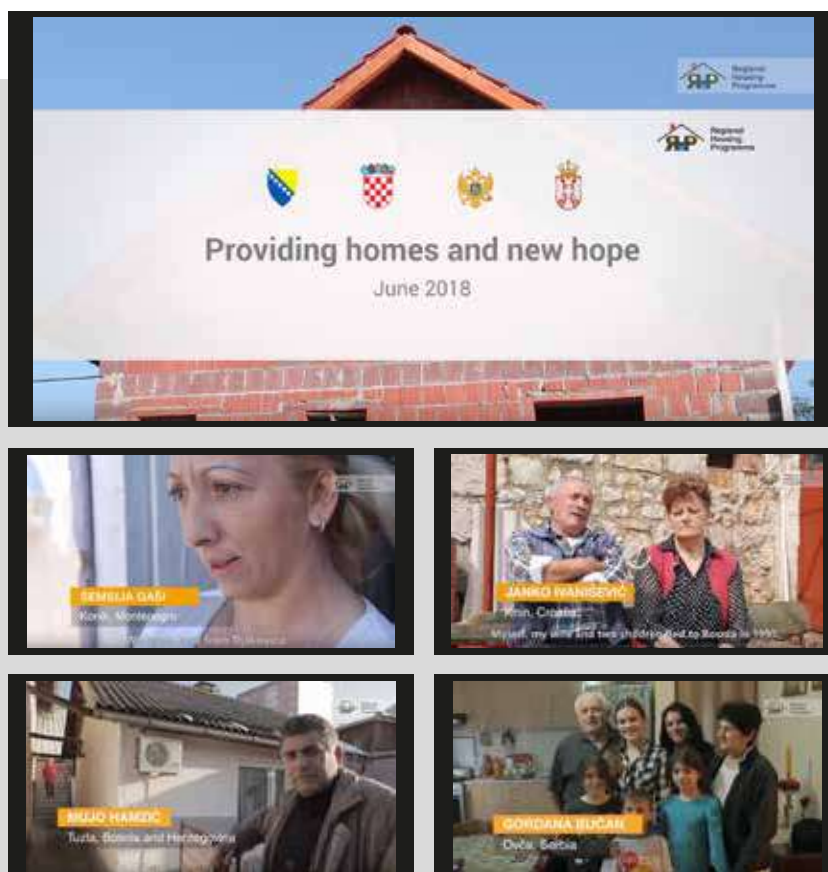
VIDEO PRODUCTION

At the end of 2018, a 25-minute film “Here to Stay” was finalised, summarising the RHP progress so far. Although the focus of the film is on personal stories of RHP beneficiaries, it also highlights the importance of regional cooperation and other key values of the RHP.

NEW RHP FILM “HERE TO STAY”



18TH WORLD REFUGEE DAY 20 JUNE 2018



RHP EVENTS IN 2018



2000th RHP housing unit handed over
Backa Palanka, Serbia, June 2018



Delivery of keys to 62 apartments
Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina, September 2018



Delivery of keys to 21 apartments
Benkovac, Croatia, February 2018



Inauguration of Home for elderly/disabled
Glina, Croatia, May 2018



Delivery of keys to 50 apartments
Prijeedor, Bosnia and Herzegovina, July 2018



Delivery of keys to 18 apartments
Iliđa, Bosnia and Herzegovina, June 2018



Start of works of a 169-unit apartment
building in Stara Pazova, Serbia,
August 2018



Delivery of keys to 20 apartments
Bosanski Petrovac, Bosnia and Herzegovina, May 2018



Start of construction works of a 20-unit
apartment building, Ub, Serbia, September 2018



Statement by UNHCR and OSCE



Anne Christine Eriksson

UNHCR Regional Representative for
South Eastern Europe and Representative
in Bosnia and Herzegovina

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Eriksson'.



Marcel Pesko

Ambassador, Director,
Conflict Prevention Centre,
OSCE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marcel Pesko'.

In 2018, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) continued to support the transparent, consistent and fair implementation of the Regional Housing Programme (RHP), in line with our specific roles in the Programme. The selection of beneficiaries, as well as assistance to Partner Countries in providing sustainability of the solutions offered by the housing projects, remained key areas of our focus.

UNHCR and the OSCE are particularly pleased that the overall implementation of the Programme has continued in a satisfactory manner. To date, over one third of the projected 11 900 housing solutions have been provided through the RHP to the most vulnerable displaced people in all four Partner Countries. It has taken a long time since the end of the conflicts in the region, but we are confident that 2019 will witness the highest number of RHP beneficiaries finally rebuilding their lives in dignity – and in their new homes.

The selection of beneficiaries and the introduction of sustainability measures that complement offered housing solutions remain an essential precondition for a truly successful implementation of the RHP. The realization of both these vital processes has benefitted greatly from many lessons from the past that have been taken into consideration.

The selection of RHP beneficiaries has become an irreversible process, carried out in all four Partner Countries in a fair, transparent and efficient fashion. As we are entering the last phase of the RHP, we need to make additional efforts to ensure sustainability of the Programme and its long-term success in offering thousands of the neediest displaced the second chance for a new, better life.

In this regard, we commend the Partner Countries for the different initiatives undertaken in 2018 to ensure that the proposed solutions are genuinely durable and comprehensive. Examination of the social integration and employment opportunities to help the displaced remain essential elements of any sub-project proposal.

The RHP has become widely recognized as a uniquely successful project of regional co-operation and reconciliation. It is vital to further nurture its regional character, while at the same time taking into account specific conditions and environments in each Partner Country, as a basis for the most appropriate, tailor-made solutions.

UNHCR and OSCE reiterate their readiness to further contribute to the joint efforts and will continue to work to ensure that all funds that have been generously secured by RHP Donors are utilized in the most efficient manner to the benefit of the region's most vulnerable displaced people.

Project Highlights



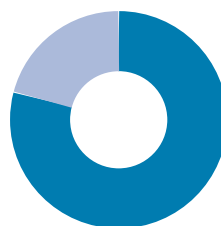
Sub-project BiH3 (2014) – Construction of 552 flats in Bosnia and Herzegovina



Inauguration of a 50-unit apartment building in Prijedor (Republika Srpska), July 2018

This project consists of the construction of 552 flats in multi-unit apartment buildings for refugees and internally displaced persons in Republika Srpska, in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the Brcko District. By end 2018, 201 apartments had been completed and handed over, and the remaining 351 are scheduled for completion in 2019. The Catholic Relief Services (CRS) have provided complementary support for securing basic income for RHP beneficiary families in several municipalities.

Funding sources:



- RHP Fund:
EUR 13.8 million
- National contribution:
EUR 3.6 million
- TOTAL COST:**
EUR 17.4 million

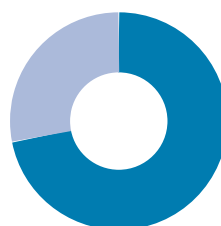


Sub-project HR3 (2013) – Home for the elderly and disabled in Glin



This project involved the reconstruction and extension of a home for 74 elderly and disabled refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons, in order to provide them with adequate accommodation, social and health care. Many of the beneficiaries spent over 25 years in temporary collective accommodation.

Funding sources:



- RHP Fund:
EUR 3.1 million
- National contribution:
EUR 1.2 million
- TOTAL COST:**
EUR 4.3 million

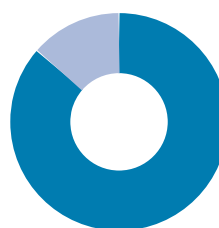


Sub-project MNE3 (2013) – Home for the elderly in Pljevlja



The Pljevlja home for the elderly provides accommodation for 68 elderly refugees/internally displaced persons/holders of the status of foreigners with permanent or temporary residence in Montenegro. It also offers palliative care and provides daily care to 30 vulnerable persons. The main design of the home had been prepared previously thanks to financing from the WBIF (Western Balkans Investment Framework), a grant facility mainly funded by the European Union, which helped speed up the start of the construction phase.

Funding sources:



● RHP Fund:
EUR 1.9 million

● National contribution:
EUR 0.3 million

TOTAL COST:
EUR 2.2 million

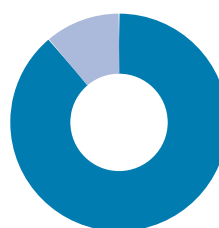


Sub-project SRB2 (2013) – Support to 870 refugee families in places of local integration



This project comprises several housing modalities, namely the construction of 200 apartments, the construction of 120 pre-fabricated houses, the provision of 300 building material packages and the purchase of 250 village houses. To date, 526 housing units have been completed and handed over.

Funding sources:



● RHP Fund:
EUR 11.6 million

● National contribution:
EUR 1.5 million

TOTAL COST:
EUR 13.1 million



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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.

www.regionalhousingprogramme.org
