



Bosnia and
Herzegovina
Bosna i
Hercegovina



Republic of
Croatia
Republika
Hrvatska



Montenegro
Crna Gora



Republic of
Serbia
Република
Србија



Regional
Housing
Programme

RHP PARTNER COUNTRIES' FINAL STATEMENT

We, representatives of the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Physical Planning, Construction and State Assets of the Republic of Croatia, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare of Montenegro and the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia, announce with great pleasure that today we are celebrating the successful completion of a joint Regional Housing Programme (RHP).

The RHP is a result of our common ideal and a broader political agreement embodied in the Sarajevo Process Ministerial Declarations from 2005 and 2011, which aimed to comprehensively contribute to the resolution of the situation of protracted displacement remaining from the conflicts from 1990s in the former Yugoslavia. The Joint Regional Programme on Durable Solutions for Refugees and Displaced Persons, based on relevant legislation, strategies, programmes and action plans of each country, as well as international norms and standards, was also inspired by our common commitment and dedication to closely cooperate and coordinate the activities in order to ensure just and sustainable housing solutions for the most vulnerable refugees and displaced persons, at the same time respecting their inalienable individual rights to make the final decision on their choice of the place of residence, and hence, on their future.

Based on the housing needs at that time for the remaining displaced persons in the region, data was mutually exchanged, thanks to restored trust between the partner countries and considerably improved cross-border cooperation. This data exchange aimed at the identification of common priorities as the basis on which the Programme was developed.

The Joint Regional Multi-Year Project was presented at the international Donors' Conference, held in April 2012 in Sarajevo. On that occasion and through subsequent donations, the international community contributed EUR 294 million to the RHP. Out of this amount, EUR 238 million or 81%, was provided by the European Union, and EUR 56 million by bilateral donors, such as the United States, Germany, Norway, Switzerland and Italy, as well as several other donors.

Thanks to these donations, complemented by approximately EUR 50 million provided in own national contributions, more than 11,300 beneficiary families or close to 36,000 individuals in the four Partner Countries received secure homes, thus successfully ending their long-term displacement. The period of uncertainty and waiting to exercise their basic human right, the right to home and peaceful enjoyment thereof, is now behind them.

In addition to the visible and concrete results of rehabilitation and construction of housing units for the most vulnerable families, the RHP has ultimately enabled refugees and displaced persons to access their personal documents, essential utility services, economic opportunities and social rights, so as to ensure their durable and sustainable (re)integration into local communities. Moreover, the Regional Housing Programme has also provided significant contribution to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia in fulfilling their national obligations in poverty reduction, social inclusion and economic empowerment, which are all requirements for all these three countries in the EU accession process.

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



The Regional Housing Programme (RHP) was established to provide durable housing solutions to vulnerable refugees and displaced persons following the 1991-1995 conflicts on the territory of former Yugoslavia. The RHP is implemented by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia and mostly financed by the international donor community. The main donor is the European Union. The other donors are the United States of America, Germany, Norway, Switzerland, Italy, Denmark, Türkiye, Luxembourg, Spain, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and the Slovak Republic.



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The cooperation between institutions of our countries has proven to be the key for the Programme success; not only has it contributed to the welfare of the most vulnerable refugees, displaced persons and returnees, but also to the restoration of mutual trust, as well as promotion of peace and coexistence, and thus stability in the region. Therefore, the RHP is a unique post-conflict reconstruction programme, which, thanks to the demonstrated political determination and responsibility, could serve as a model for resolving other displacement situations.

We can be proud that after implementation of this Programme we have such a large number of satisfied beneficiaries whose long-term displacement has come to an end. All RHP stakeholders are especially pleased by the numerous positive stories and statements of beneficiaries on fulfilled dreams and hopes after years of uncertainty waiting for a housing solution and other guaranteed rights that have been secured to them through the Programme. We are sincerely grateful to our beneficiaries for their immense patience and persistence, but also for the expressed trust, which enabled us to successfully realize their durable housing and other needs in a sustainable manner.

We express our special thanks to RHP donors, who recognised our determination and sincerity to achieve these important goals in our countries through jointly and mutually coordinated activities, in compliance with international agreements and national legislation of each of the Partner Countries.

In addition to donors, the RHP has also benefited from the invaluable role of the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), who were close and persistent partners in the creation and implementation of this Programme, the results of which will be recorded as the most vital contribution to the post-conflict reconstruction in the region.

We are aware that the RHP has remained partially unfinished in some of the Partner Countries. In this context, we hereby confirm we will, with our own funds, provide adequate housing for the remaining selected families who could not be provided with a housing solution through the RHP. At the same time, we confirm that housing units constructed within the RHP will be reserved for those persons who fulfil the criteria of the Regional Housing Programme as long as there is such a need in place.

Finally, we reaffirm commitments of our governments to protect and promote the rights of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons, including existing individual rights, and to provide all necessary political, material, legal social and other support required to end their displacement and enable them to live as equal citizens in our countries, free from any form of discrimination.

Sarajevo, November 29, 2023

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