

PROJECT FACTSHEET

Bosnia and Herzegovina March 2017

HOUSING SOLUTIONS FOR 74'000 PERSONS



As a consequence of armed conflicts in the 1990's, over 3 million people were displaced within and beyond the borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia, and Serbia. Even today, up to half a million people remain displaced throughout the region. The Regional Housing Programme aims to provide durable housing solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in need.

To resolve this protracted displacement situation, in 2011, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, and Serbia agreed on a comprehensive regional programme, aimed at ensuring the return and reintegration of refugees and internally displaced persons. The regional initiative was supported by the international community, including the European Union, the United States of America, the UNHCR, OSCE, and the Council of Europe Development Bank ("CEB").

REINTEGRATION INTO PLACE OF ORIGIN, OR INTEGRATION INTO CURRENT PLACE OF RESIDENCE

The Regional Housing Programme intends to provide durable and sustainable housing solutions to 74'000 individuals or 27'000 households. Starting in 2012, the Programme consists of four country housing projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia. The estimated overall investment of the Programme should be up to 584 million Euros.

The refugees and internally displaced persons vary in current housing placements. Thousands of them still live in collective centres, others in formal or informal collective accommodations, as well as in private accommodations. The beneficiaries of the Programme choose whether they wish to return and reintegrate into their place of origin, or integrate into their place of current residence. For all of them improved and durable housing solutions will be found – either by building, reconstructing or even purchasing apartments and houses, or through provision of construction materials, and accommodation in social welfare institutions.

THE REGIONAL HOUSING PROGRAMME IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

It is expected that the Programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina will provide durable and sustainable housing solutions to 5'400 households, which is 14'000 individuals. From this, 3'850 households will return to their places of origin, 1'270 will integrate in their place of current residence, while 280 households will be accommodated within the social welfare system.

Other than providing durable housing solutions, the Programme will have a positive effect on the self-reliance and income level of refugees and internally displaced persons. Furthermore, the Programme has a positive impact on the region as a whole. Through resolving the overdue displacement issue, the region will come a step closer to a peaceful and prosperous future. Even so, the initiative can become a model for the resolution of long lasting refugee and internal displacement crises worldwide.



20 YEARS OF SWITZERLAND'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE DISPLACEMENT ISSUE

Bosnia and Herzegovina was the first country of the region with which Switzerland has established a formal migration partnership, back in 2009. Furthermore, from 1996 to 2011, Switzerland has contributed an estimated 250 million CHF for the purpose of reintegration of refugees and displaced persons. The latest contribution of 5 million Euros was to the implementation of the Regional Housing Programme, which is to ultimately resolve the question of refugees and internally displaced persons in the Western Balkans.

THE PROJECT IN BRIEF

NAME:
Swiss contribution to the Regional Housing Programme for Durable Solutions for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in the Western Balkans

DOMAIN:
Regional Programs and Projects

THEME:
Migration

LAND/REGION:
Western Balkans

PARTNER:
Governments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia
European Commission, USA and other bilateral donors
UNHCR and OSCE - monitoring
Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) – implementing agency

STARTING POINT / BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

As a consequence of the armed conflicts in the 1990's, over 3 million people were displaced within and beyond the borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia, and Serbia. Today, up to half a million people remain displaced, living in precarious situations, without any perspective of attaining durable housing solutions.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE:

Through the contribution to the Regional Housing Programme - a joint initiative of BiH, Croatia, Serbia, and Montenegro - the Government of Switzerland, as well as other donors and the international community, seek to provide durable housing solutions to refugees and internally displaced persons in the region. Through the initiative 74'000 individuals should either reintegrate into their place of origin, or integrate into the place of current residence.

TARGET GROUP:

The project will benefit 74'000 persons, who were displaced during the Balkan wars 1991-1995.

COSTS:
CHF 6'325'000 (contribution of the Government of Switzerland to the RHP)

DURATION:
20.10.2012 – 31.12.2017

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND CONTACT DETAILS

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
Cooperation with Eastern Europe, Western Balkans Division
Freiburgstrasse 130, 3003 Bern
Tel. +41 (0)58 462 22 12
E-Mail: deza-oza@eda.admin.ch
www.sdc.admin.ch

Embassy of Switzerland in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Zmaja od Bosne 11, RBBH Building, object B
BiH-71000 Sarajevo
Tel. +387 33 27 58 50, +387 33 25 40 30
Fax +387 33 57 01 20
E-Mail: sar.vertretung@eda.admin.ch
www.eda.admin.ch/bosnia-and-herzegovina