

PROJECT FACTSHEET

Creating and Implementing Measures for Foreigners with International Protection Status in BiH, with the Aim of Fully and Sustainably Integrating Them into BiH Society
Bosnia and Herzegovina – February 2022



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Embassy of Switzerland in Bosnia and Herzegovina



HOW TO IMPROVE THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF FOREIGNERS WITH INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION?

Since 2018, over 84,000 migrants and refugees have entered Bosnia and Herzegovina, most of them in transit to the EU via Croatia.

Approximations show several thousand migrants in BiH, and only a part of them need asylum and international protection.

The integration of foreigners under international protection and recognized refugees in BiH society and their temporary accommodation is the responsibility of the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH, which ensures the implementation of their rights and coordinates the work of relevant institutions.

The capacities of the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH will be improved by creating measures for social and economic integration

Creating and Implementing Measures for Foreigners with International Protection Status in BiH, with the Aim of Fully and Sustainably Integrating Them into BiH Society is the name of a project funded by the Swiss Government and implemented by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) with the institutional support of the BiH Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees to create systemic solutions for full and sustainable socio-economic integration of foreigners and recognized refugees in BiH.

RIGHTS OF FOREIGNERS WITH INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AND KEY ISSUES

The rights of foreigners with international protection and recognized refugees primarily include access to information, accommodation, employment, education, health care, social assistance, operational assistance for integration in BiH society.

Critical problems delaying the systemic integration of foreigners and recognized refugees in the society in BiH are the following:

- Incomplete legal framework and mechanisms of cooperation (lack of regulations that define the integration process more clearly and in detail)
- Lack of working bodies and mechanisms for inter-institutional cooperation
- Insufficient capacity of municipalities to create integration and employment programs
- Refugees and persons with international protection face ignorance of the local language, ignorance of basic business skills for access to the labor market, lack of social interaction and support, and increased competitiveness for jobs with low salaries on the market
- Lack of systemic measures of social and economic integration
- Insufficient capacity of the Refugee Reception Camp (RRC) Salakovac to provide adequate living conditions and opportunities for the residents

- The staff in the RRC Salakovac is not qualified to work with people of different life, social and cultural backgrounds
- The heating and cooling system in the RRC is not energy efficient

PROJECT'S GOALS AND SOLUTIONS

The project's goal, which addresses all the above problems, is as follows: Recognized refugees and foreigners with international protection have access to all areas of life, and asylum seekers live with dignity in BiH.

The key project activities are:

1. Strengthening BiH institutions to coordinate the integration process and provide support
2. Capacity building for full social, cultural, and economic integration of foreigners with international protection and recognized refugees in society of BiH through: development of individual integration plans, establishing social relations and creating conditions for income generation
3. Improving the heating system and living conditions for asylum seekers in the Refugee Reception Center Salakovac

The project activities will help establish a legal framework to address the existential issues of the growing number of refugees and foreigners seeking asylum and their chances to stay in BiH.

The capacities of the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH will be improved by developing a better methodology for cooperation.

On the other hand, the personal capacities of foreigners with international protection and recognized refugees will be strengthened to generate income and participate in the community's economic, cultural, and social life.

Asylum seekers living in the Refugee Reception Center Salakovac will have better living conditions.

PROJECT IN BRIEF

NAME:

Creating and Implementing Measures for Foreigners with International Protection Status in BiH, with the Aim of Fully and Sustainably Integrating Them into BiH Society

DOMAIN:

Migration and Security

LAND/REGION:

Bosnia and Herzegovina

PARTNERS:

Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH

STARTING POINT / BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a transit point on the migrant route to the EU. BiH institutions are looking for ways to improve the status of migrants and foreigners that are seeking asylum and international protection.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE:

The project's goal is systemic, social, economic, logistical, and educational support to foreigners with international protection and recognized refugees to integrate into society and live with dignity in BiH.

TARGET GROUP:

(I) the Institutions involved in the integration process of persons with recognized status in BiH; (II) Refugees and foreigners under subsidiary protection (III) Asylum seekers accommodated in the Refugee Reception Center Salakovac (IV) Municipalities (V) Local vulnerable households in municipalities where persons with recognized status are being housed.

COSTS:

CHF 647,000, of which CHF 570,000 (Swiss Government)

DURATION:

01.12.2020-31.09.2022

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