

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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ASB IMPLEMENTS ANOTHER EU-FUNDED PROJECT TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO IDPs, REFUGEES AND THE VULNERABLE POPULATION IN SERBIA

The Office of the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB) in the Republic of Serbia has recently received funds from the EU to implement the „Provision of support to internally displaced person (IDPs), refugees and the vulnerable domicile population in Serbia through the creation of durable housing solutions and economic sustainability measures” project valued at € 1.020,052 out of which € 815,634 will be financed by the European Commission. This project will be implemented in the municipalities of Užice, Kruševac, Kula, Smederevo, Bačka Palanka, Temerin and Medvedja in partnership with the non-governmental organisation „Educational Centre” from Leskovac, Serbia.

The aim of this project is to provide support to at least 25 IDP and refugee families being relocated from private accommodation and collective centres to social housing in a supportive environment. As well, building material for durable housing solutions for at least 46 IDP and refugee families will be provided. Twenty five housing units will be constructed in the municipalities of Užice and Kruševac to accommodate 25 IDP and refugee families who have been living under poor living conditions in collective centres or private accommodation for the past 10 to 15 years. In addition, extremely vulnerable and marginalised families (at least six IDP Roma families) will receive housing assistance through six pre-fabricated housing units which will be constructed in the municipality of Medvedja. The lives of these IDPs, refugees and marginalised families have been made worse by poverty, high unemployment, and the lack of social and economic stability due to the overall impoverishment of Serbian society, the massive refugee influx to Serbia and the decline in the quality of social services.

Under this project, ASB is emphasizing the economic status of these refugees and IDPs and will carry out income generating activities for 150 IDP and refugee families. These include trainings which focus on businesses start-up and in-kind grants for the successful business start-up. This will enable them to generate income, which in long term, will end their reliance on social assistance and promote them to become equal members of the community. Through many similar housing projects carried out by ASB in the past, the provision of housing solutions for IDPs and refugees proved insufficient to achieve sustainability and integration within Serbian society without focusing on their economic status and future prospects.

A similar project to provide support to at least 44 IDPs and refugees through housing solutions and economic sustainability measures in South Serbia, Central Serbia and Vojvodina, has been currently undertaken by the ASB Office in Serbia.

Since 1999, ASB has implemented projects valued at 10.3 million in Serbia with funds from EAR, the German Government, USAID and other donors. ASB built approx. 342 housing units and carried out reconstruction of social and economic infrastructure as well as emergency relief.



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