

Type of Project:	Infrastructure Repair	Country:	Bosnia BiH
Approach:	Water- /Electric Supply	Realisation Year:	1999 - 2000
Project name:	Ajre water- & power supply in Dobo area	Version:	1
		Date:	March 2004



Initial Situation, Context

Eight years after the war ended, Bosnia-Herzegovina remains confronted with the problem of displaced persons (DPs). End of December 2002 still some 367'500 persons have been displaced within the country. While the pace of returns has increased in recent years, many DPs continue to reside in Collective Centers (CCs), where they wait for durable solutions to their housing problems. By end of December 2003 still 1'286 CC residents (1'120 in the Federation and 166 in Republica Srpska). These CCs offer, for the most part, only the most rudimentary accommodation. Many of these CCs are converted facilities such as former school-houses, closed hotels, barracks or housing containers.

UNHCR had a long series of discussions in 1998 to launch the return process in Dobo municipality for Bosniaks from Ajre, an important area outside the "Zone of Separation" and close to town. The involved local authorities and community members were focussed primarily in creating the opportunities for return (visits, cleaning of the houses) which started mid of 1999. Ajre was one of the first minority return areas in Dobo municipality and this return movement paved definitively the way for even more minority return to the region. MCE/SEA were at this time involved in a housing program for reconstructions in Ajre for minority return. .

Goals, Beneficiaries

Main objective of the ongoing DuSoCC program is to provide durable housing solution for CC residents by creation of accommodation through reconstruction or rehabilitation of destroyed or damaged private houses (mainly in rural areas) and social apartments in urban areas. Complementary to the ongoing DuSoCC housing program some small-scale infrastructure projects in water supply and power network rehabilitation have been implemented as well to make the return to rural context more sustainable. The infrastructure project in Ajre is assisting returnees leaving CCs (7 families) as well as other minority returnees (36 families).

Approach

When the housing project was started, the village of Ajre had no more a working power network or a water supply system because of serious damages. The DuSoCC management of UNHCR/SHA decided to participate in the program of MCE/SEA. MCE/SEA agreed in the financing of the reconstruction of seven completely destroyed houses in favour of DuSoCC as a compensation for the financing of the infrastructure component by UNHCR/ SHA. The reconstruction of houses for the seven families accommodated before in CCs will be considered as a part of 1999 UNHCR shelter program in Dobo area

Partner(s)

MCE/SEA (Mercy Corps Europe/Scottish European Aid) as the implementing partner for housing

UNHCR/SHA as the financing partner for the infrastructure for 43 returnee families

Municipality of Dobo

UNHCR as provider for building material and labour work for the reconstruction of 7 houses for CC residents.

Implementations/Results

Durable housing solution in favour of 7 families with 31 individuals (former CC residents in Zenica).
Power and water supply for 43 returnee families in total and the additional impact of a successful repopulation of a former completely deserted area

Reconstructions

Implemented by Mercy Corps Europe/Scottish European Aid and Stichting-Vluchtling (a Dutch implementing NGO)

Cost, Financing

34 houses have been financed by MCE/SEA and UNHCR, 7 houses under the framework of DuSoCC of UNHCR/SHA. The Infrastructure project of UNHCR/SHA for all 43 houses cost 101'500 EUR.

Problems/Constraints

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Lessons learned What was useful in the approach?

Successful joint venture between two implementing partners with a strong synergy effect. Good and transparent job sharing within the framework of a combined shelter/Infrastructure program.

Lessons learned What should be done different next time?

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Preconditions and Limitations for this approach

Experienced implementing partner with the capacity/will for tailor made solutions and available funds.

Evaluations

Joint evaluation UNHCR/SHA in April 2002 (H. Gloor, M. Tegegne), Report September 2002

For further information

Recommended Contacts:	René E. Knupfer, UNHCR/SHA Project Manager, Sarajevo
Recommended Institutions:	SDC/SHA desk Europe + CIS, Berne
Recommended books/reports:	SDC/SHA Facht Sheet June 2002: "The Swiss Contribution" DuSoCC Briefing Kit (CD February 2004 release)
Relevant other projects (links):	Similar project in Serbia

Annex: (technical drawings, schemata) see page: --