

Type of Project:	Infrastructure New Construction	Country:		Serbia
Approach:	Electric-/Water Supply	Realisation Year:		2002 - 2003
Project name:	Infrastructure for a new refugee settlement in Zemun	Version:	1	Date: February 04



Initial Situation, Context

As a consequence of the conflicts in Croatia and Bosnia 1991-95 and in Kosovo 1999, Serbia hosts some 375'000 refugees and IDP's. Most of them expressed their wish to integrate in Serbia. To support this process of local integration, UNHCR started in 1997 the Local Settlement Programme (LSP) with the construction of settlements for refugees in Serbia.

The Municipality of Zemun in the area of Belgrade is attractive to refugees and expellees. A census made in April 2001 confirmed that Zemun was the municipality with the largest concentration of refugees and IDPs in FRY. There are 5 Collective Centres in Zemun hosting 283 refugees and IDPs. One of the CCs was using the premises of a specialized elementary school for handicapped children's. The Serbian Orthodox Church as the owner of this school claimed back its property. The Municipality of Zemun applied therefore for the UNHCRs Local Settlement Program, offering 11 plots in the settlement of Batajnica, which allowed 22 families to leave the CC and to build their own houses through a Self Help Program. But these plots were not connected to the infrastructure network of the municipality. The Municipality of Zemun requested SDC's assistance to support the UNHCR LS-Program by funding the infrastructure for those new housing plots.

Goals, Beneficiaries

Main goal was to facilitate the integration of the refugees in the municipality of Zemun by providing the infrastructure for water- and electric supply for almost 40 plots in the settlement of Batajnica. 11 of these plots are already allocated to 22 refugee families (22 duplex houses) in the framework of the UNHCR LSP. The remaining plots will later be assigned to other refugees willing to be integrated locally. The relocation of these refugees will allow closing down two CCs and subsequently will enable 200 pupils to return to their former school building.

Approach

- Assisting the Serbian Government in closing down the CCs
- Supporting the Municipality to participate in the LSP Program
- Assisting the Municipality and MoE by returning the CC premises to the former use as a school
- Assisting the Municipality to turn back the property to its proper owner, the Orthodox Church.
- Supporting the selected refugee families to be supplied with communal water and electricity

Partner(s)

- Municipality of Zemun: provided project documentation and issued all necessary permissions for the infrastructure works as well as the day-to-day technical supervision during implementation.
- SCR (Serbian Commissioner for Refugees) is involved in the housing program (LSP)
- UNHCR: is involved in the housing program (LSP)
- SDC Housing office in Belgrade: developed the concept, provided funds, prepared, implemented and monitored the project.

Implementations/Results

Based on the main design prepared by the Municipality of Zemun, the tender documentation was prepared by SDC, followed by bidding procedure and the selection of the contractor. The municipality for checking the quality of works provided local supervisor.

The project was finished officially after the technical acceptance and hand-over.

Technical Details

The assistance requested from SDC by the Municipality of Zemun refers to the construction of 850m of water supply network, a new transformer and new external low voltage network of 850m. The connection with the existing local networks was as well part of the program. Four new access-streets are equipped with this infrastructure as well

Cost, Financing

The cost for the 850m water supply network was 38'850 EUR

The cost for transformer and power supply network was 31'000 EUR.

Not included in these amounts are the cost for overhead and technical coordination of SDC.

Problems/Constraints

The program period had to be extended because the acquiring of all necessary permissions took more time than planned.

Lessons learned What was useful in the approach?

The joint collaboration between the partners gave the municipality the opportunity to decrease the problems with its refugees and CCs.

Lessons learned What should be done different next time?

To put more time in the schedule for the acquirement of the necessary permissions

Preconditions and Limitations for this approach

- Political acceptance of the project proposal by national and local authorities
- Close cooperation with the relevant partners
- Financial capacity of all partners

Evaluations

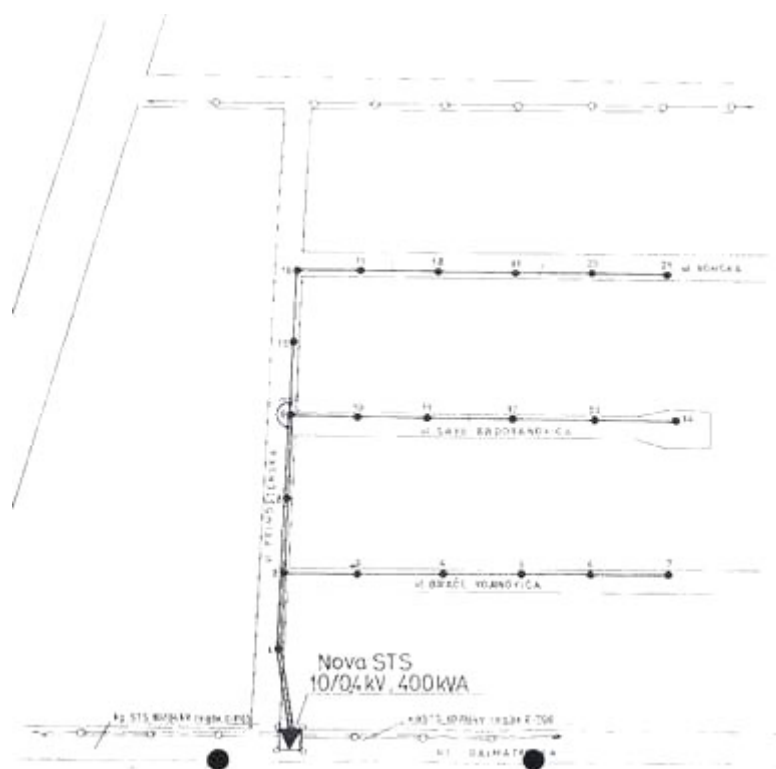
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For further information

Recommended Contacts:	E. Morosin, Head of SDC Housing Office, Belgrade
Recommended Institutions:	SDC/SHA, desk Europe + CIS
Recommended books/reports:	SDC/SHA Fact Sheet June 2002: The Swiss Contribution"
Relevant other projects (links):	similar Projects in BiH and Kosovo

Annex: (technical drawings, schemata) see page: 3-5

Lay-out of new Infrastructure in Zemun



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Procedures Checklist

General Information

In the consequences of the conflicts in Croatia, Bosnia and Kosovo (1991-1999) Serbia hosts some 375'000 refugees and 200'000 IDPs. The majority of them (65%) expressed their wish to integrate in Serbia. In supporting the local integration process, UNHCR started in 1997 the Local Settlement Programme (LSP) with the construction of settlements for refugees in Serbia.

The Municipality of Zemun (250'000 inhabitants) as a part of the area of Belgrade is attractive to refugees and expelled people. The Municipality applied for the UNHCR-LSP and offered 11 plots in the settlement of Batajnica, which allow 22 refugee families from CCs to build their own houses through a Self Help Program. The offered plots were not equipped with infrastructure and the municipality requested SDCs assistance to support the LSP program by funding the infrastructure (electric- and water supply) to these plots.

Goals, Beneficiaries

Main goal is to facilitate the integration of refugees in the Municipality of Zemun by providing the necessary infrastructure to a total of 40 plots in the area of Batajnica. 11 plots are served in a first run and allocated to 22 families (11 double houses Type F) in the frame of UNHCR-LSP. The remaining plots will later on be assigned to other refugee's families as well. By building this new infrastructure, the school of "Sava Jovanovic-Sirogojno" and the theological school "Svet Sava" from the Orthodox Church, used before as Collective Centres (CCs) and occupied by refugees, could now be cleared and given back to their former users.

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

1. Problem Detecting: SDC + UNHCR + Municipality

- a Is there an awareness of the high number of refugee families opting for an integration in Serbia?
- b Is the closure of CCs a priority of the Government?
- c Is there a National Strategy pointing out the necessity to solve the housing problem?
- d How is the specific situation in the involved Municipality?

2. Concept: SDC + UNHCR + Municipality

- a Analyse the needs of the Municipality
- b Analyse the integration needs of the beneficiaries
- c Define concept and participation of each partner
- d Find consensus about concept
- e Present already existing similar projects (if any exists)

3. Motivation: SDC Initiative + Municipality

- a Check the willingness of the Municipality to participate in this project
- b Analyse the municipals potential to participate in the project
- c Strengthen the motivation, if needed, by defining benefits

PROJECT STRUCTURE

4. Partnership: SDC Initiative + UNHCR + Municipality

- a Approach partners and organise round table discussions
- b Preliminary discussions about project concept
- c Prepare first draft of Agreement based on preliminary discussion
- d Collect remarks and recommendations from partners, create second draft of Agreement
- e Define and sign final Agreement

5. Responsibility (Agreement): All Partners

- a **SDC**: Initiates, coordinates among partners, funds construction, technical documents, implementation
- b **SCR**: Is involved in the housing program (LSP)
- c **UNHCR**: Is involved in the housing program (LSP)
- d **Municipality**: Provides land for the houses, provides all permits, documents and authorizations, and performs day-to-day supervision of the construction

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**6. Building works: SDC + Municipality**

- a Find urban planning conditions for the project design
- b Organise urban planning permit
- c Elaborate the main and executing design and documents
- d Provide technical check-up of all project documents
- e Provide approval from the relevant organizations
- f Organise the necessary “Building Permit”
- g Organise Tendering
- h Organise Contracting
- i Open the construction site
- j Run the project monitoring
- k Find and organise the project acceptance
- l Organise the final account
- m Organise the documents for “Permit for use” and handover

Legend

MUN: Municipality

UNHCR: Un High Commissioner for Refugees

SDC: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

SCR: Serbian Commissioner for Refugees

For further information

Recommended Contacts:	E. Morosin, SDC Housing Office Belgrade e-mail: sdc.ho@eunet.yu
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