

Type of Project:	Shelter Housing Durable Solution	Country: Serbia		
Approach:	Self Help	Realisation Year: 2001 - 2002		
Project name:	Self Help Program for IDP's in GSZ South Serbia	Version: 1	Date:	February 2004



Initial Situation, Context

The region covered by this project is situated in Southern Serbia along the border to Kosovo. During the ethnic conflict in 1999, the war activities were transferred to the territory of Serbia itself, forcing the ethnic Albanians to leave the area and to seek protection in Kosovo. In spring 2001, the Serbian Government and the Local Authorities, supported by the International Community, intended to provide the basic means to enable returning Albanian population to resume their normal life.

Goals, Beneficiaries

Main goal was to enable the returning ethnic Albanian families to resume their normal life in the "Ground Security Zone" (GSZ) in the Presevo Valley ("Kumanovo Agreement 1999").

Approach

The concept was to support the households in form of supplying building materials, technical support and cash for the repair of minor damages. The assessment of the damages was followed by the delivery of the kits of building material, which were used by the beneficiaries themselves for repair and reconstruction of their former homes. SDC gave the necessary technical support

Partner(s)

- UNHCR: provided funds for the purchase of building materials and tools
- Municipality: provided the storage place for the building material and assisted in the assessment
- SDC: developed the technical concept, participated in financing with its overhead cost and assisted the returnees in the construction work by purchasing and delivering building material and giving technical support

Implementations/Results

The damage categorization was made according to the situation in the field: most frequent damage types in relation to the previous experience.

Category 1	No damages
Category 2	Broken windows, doors locks and hinges. Cut off from electricity and water
Category 3	Up to 30% roof damage, light shelling or bullets impact on the walls. Partial fire damage
Category 4	Over 30% roof damage. Severe fire damage. Doors and windows destroyed, Need for replacement of the floors
Category 5	Completely destroyed

Implementation Arrangement: The concept was to ensure at least one dry room in the house. Similar to the Partial Self Help Program, the beneficiaries had to collect the material from the warehouse and to build it in by themselves, with adequate technical assistance and coordination from SDC

Technical details:

The standard of the houses is in line with the prevailing local standards. The technical solution are sustainable in each particular self help project. Local material is used. Material was provided for the construction of a house of 30,5 m2 for each family in cases where they have to replace the destroyed house. For only damaged houses, material was delivered according to the category of the damages.

- Category 1: The most vulnerable part of this category was given a cash support of 250 DM per family as a motivation to return.
- Category 2: Support with cash of 500 DM per family, sufficient for small basic repairs.
- Category 3: Kits of building material for repairs, containing mainly doors, windows and some roof tiles in the value of \$ 1'370
- Category 4: Kits of building material for repairs, containing mainly doors, windows, part of the roof structure and roof tiles in the value of \$ 2'500.
- Category 5: Building material kit sufficient for construction of a new house of approx. 30,5 m2 consisting of two rooms and a toilet in the value of \$ 5'615.

A total number of 477 returnees houses were assessed, **2835 beneficiaries in 340 families** complied with the criteria for assistance:

Municipality	Cat. 1	Cat. 2	Cat. 3	Cat. 4	Cat. 5	Beneficiaries
Presevo	11	107	9	6	30	1'477
Bujanovac	31	92	5	-	-	1'038
Medveda	16	33	-	-	-	320
Total	58	232	14	6	30	2'835

Cost, Financing

UNHCR: 180'000 \$ for building material and tools

SDC/SHA: Implementation- and overhead cost

Municipality of Presevo: Warehouse, transports

CHF International/USAID funds: Transport logistic support

Tearfund/USAID funds: Some electric installation equipment

Problems/Constraints

Delivery of material to the remote mountain regions was difficult; most of the houses could only reached by tractors or on foot. The support had to be given according to the categorization and not according the specific needs of a family (assistance in the shortest possible time). The program was limited to the basic shelter without any other integration components (income generating etc.). During implementing time of the project there was still a risk of possible conflicts (mine fields, ammunition left behind, military presence in the border region).

Lessons learned What was useful in the approach?

The building material was delivered in a very short period. The beneficiaries were enabled to use the building material according the program and with the technical support of SDC. This reduced remarkably the cost per beneficiary. Local Suppliers and the municipal authority participated actively in the project implementation, which was a contribution of the whole community in resolving the problem of returnees. The Serbian SDC staff was assisting the Albanian returnees (inter-ethnic cooperation)

Lessons learned What should be done different next time?

More teams should be formed to do the damage assessment for speeding up the process. An income generating component and the basic infrastructure should be developed simultaneously.

Preconditions and Limitations for this approach

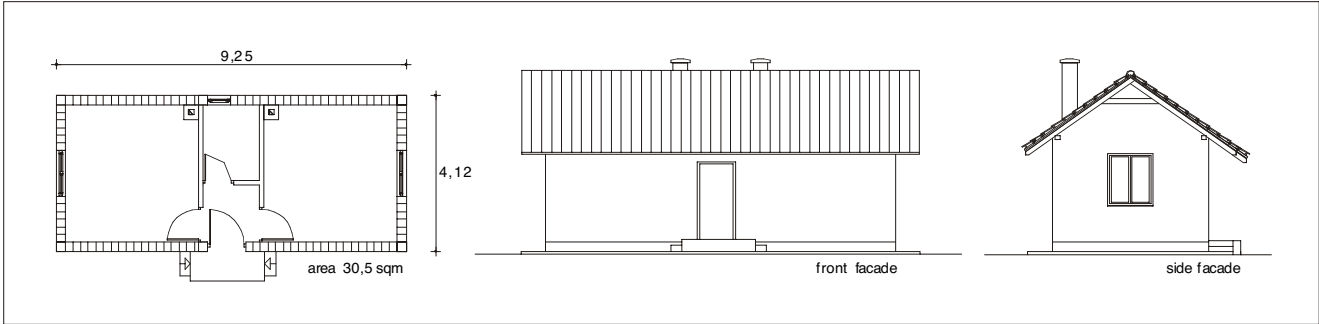
- Political will to implement such a program for enabling the return of the ethnic minority
- Close cooperation with other partners in identification and implementation
- Financial capacity of other partners to participate in the program

For further information

Recommended Contacts:	Ernesto Morosin, 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

Plan for a new construction (Category 5)



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Procedures Checklist

General Information

The region covered by this project is southern Serbia along the border to Kosovo. During the ethnic conflict in 1999, the war activities were transferred to the territory of Serbia, forcing the ethnic Albanians to leave and to seek protection in Kosovo. In spring 2001, the Serbian Government and the Local Authorities, supported by the International Community, intended to provide the basic means to enable the returned Albanian population to resume their normal life. The concept was to support the households in form of supplying building materials, technical support and cash for minor damages. The assessment of the damages was followed by the delivery of the building material kits, which were used by the beneficiaries to repair or reconstruct their homes by themselves. SDC gave the necessary technical support, UNHCR was funding the material.

Goals, Beneficiaries

Ethnic Albanian families returning to the former "Ground Safety Zone" (GSZ) in southern Serbia.

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

1. Problem Detecting: UNHCR/SDC Initiative

- a Is there an awareness of the high number of returning families to former GSZ?
- b Is there a commitment of the Government to provide assistance for these returnees?
- c Is there a support/pressure of the International Community to solve the housing issues of the returnees?
- d How are the specific situations in the involved 3 Municipalities?
- e Assessment of damaged houses

2. Concept: SDC/UNHCR Initiative

- a Analyse the returning process of the beneficiaries
- b Analyse the living standards of the local population
- c Analyse the capacity of potential beneficiaries to contribute physically or financially to the durable solution
- d Define the concept and the participation of each partner
- e Find consensus about concept

3 Architectural Solution: SDC/UNHCR Initiative

- a Analyse the needs of returning families
- b Analyse the past experiences of Self Help Approach (type of houses)
- c Consider providing a rapid relief to families with destroyed property
- d Propose the layout plan and the preliminary design for new houses

4. Identification of Beneficiaries: SDC + UNHCR + Municipality Initiative

- a Check the willingness of returning families to stay in the house/village
- b Categorize the damage of the relevant houses
- c Set the potential beneficiaries on a list with the kit of building material according to the damage category

PROJECT STRUCTURE

5. Partnership: SDC/MUN/UNHCR

- a Discuss and agree on the procedure and on tripartite agreement for construction
- b Discuss and agree on criteria for the selection of beneficiaries
- c Sign the final Agreement based on preliminary discussion
- d Select the beneficiaries according agreement

6. Responsibility (Agreement):

- a **SDC:** Identification of beneficiaries, categorization of housing damages, forming construction material kits, preparing technical documentation for new houses (category 5), selection of beneficiaries, implementation, supervision and technical assistance
- b **UNHCR:** Identification of the beneficiaries, funding construction materials, selection of beneficiaries
- c **Municipality:** Identification and selection of the beneficiaries, provides electricians and storage place for construction materials, provides all permits and authorizations, and performs day-to-day supervision of the construction

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**7. Selection of Beneficiaries:** SDC + UNHCR + Municipality

- a Set-up the Joint-Commission SDC + UNHCR + Municipality
- b Define criteria
- c Preliminary selection of beneficiaries made by the Joint Commission
- d Categorisation of beneficiaries by the Joint Commission according housing damages
- e Final selection of beneficiaries
- f Creation and handing out vouchers for construction materials to the beneficiaries

8. Building works: SDC + UNHCR + Municipality

- a Sign the tripartite agreement (SDC/UNHCR/Municipality)
- b Provide storage place and assign a storage keeper (Municipality)
- c Elaborate the main and executing design and documents
- d Provide technical check-up of all project documents
- e Provide approval from the relevant Partners
- f Organise the necessary "Building Permit", if necessary
- g Organise Tendering and contracting (supply of building material)
- h Order the construction material
- i Monitor the handover of materials
- j Organise the transport of materials to the villages (MUN, SDC, CHF Int./USAID)
- k Give technical support to beneficiaries (incl. electrical equipment /Tearfund/USAID)
- l Find and organise the project acceptance
- m Organise the final account

Legend

MUN: Municipality

BEN: Selected beneficiaries

UNHCR: UN High Commissioner for Refugees

SDC: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

For further information

Recommended Contacts:	E. Morosin, SDC Housing Office Belgrade e-mail: sdc.ho@eunet.yu
Recommended Institutions:	SDC/HA, desk Europe + CIS
Recommended books/reports:	SDC/HA Fact Sheet June 2002: "The Swiss Contribution"
Relevant other projects (links):	similar Projects are planned in 2003/4 in Serbia and Kosovo