

| | | | |
|------------------|---|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Type of Project: | Housing – DuSoCC Durable Solutions for Collective Centre Residents | Country: | BiH – Bosnia-Herzegovina |
| Approach: | Individual Housing | Realisation - Year: | 2001/2002 |
| Project Name: | Doboj (Republika Srpska) : Self-Help Shelter Programme in Kotorsko (11 houses) | Version: | 2 |
| | | Date: | 06 December 2005 |

Self-Help Shelter Programme (11 houses) in Kotorsko, Doboj municipality



Context – Situation in BiH

Ten years after the war ended, Bosnia-Herzegovina remains confronted with the problem of displaced persons (DPs). As of the end of December 2004, 309,240 persons were still displaced in the country. While the pace of returns has increased in recent years, many DPs continue to reside in Collective Centres (CCs) where they await durable solutions of their housing problems. These CCs provide, for the most part, only the most basic accommodation. Many are converted facilities such as former schoolhouses, closed hotels, barracks or housing containers.

Housing, the main objective of the DuSoCC Programme

The main objective of the “Durable Solutions for Collective Centre Residents” (DuSoCC) programme, a SHA secondment at UNHCR Sarajevo was to provide durable housing solutions for CC residents: creation of decent accommodation by reconstruction or rehabilitation of destroyed or damaged private houses (mostly in rural area) and social apartments (in urban area).

Approach – Self-help shelter programme

The village of Kotorsko, located north of Doboj on the road to Derventa, had 1,100 houses before the war. Apparently, it was the largest Bosniak village in Doboj municipality. The village was badly damaged during the war and a majority of houses is at least partially damaged. Approximately 200 houses are habitable, mostly occupied by Bosnian Serb displaced persons (DPs) originally from Vozuća area (Zavidovići municipality). The settlers were very resistant to Bosniak return (UNHCR estimates that at least 880 households wish to return immediately to Kotorsko). The area was opened for Bosniak return after intensive efforts by the International Community (IC).

As a result of an agreement between Bosniaks and Bosnian Serbs in the area, return activities in Kotorsko started on 17 January 2000 by cleaning 30 houses. Once the houses were cleaned, the returnees wished to continue with cleaning of other areas in the village. Under its mandate to facilitate minority return, UNHCR mediated series of discussions between Bosnian Serbs and Bosniaks regarding expansion of housecleaning activities. The Bosniaks wanted to expand housecleaning to an unoccupied area of the village. Several buildings are weatherproofed and a communal kitchen is maintained in order to provide its services for a group of 20 people overnighing on site. As a result of the above-mentioned activities, more than 270 houses are cleaned and ready for reconstruction.

As of 09 May 2000 the Bosniaks received supply of building material from the Federation Ministry for Refugees (FMSA) stored in Kotorsko. Once the building material available on site, first house repair activities have been started immediately. It is important to highlight that the returnee group seems to be excellently organized and therefore an ideal candidate for a self-help programme.

Just as importantly, „Räddnings Verket“ - Swedish Rescue Services Agency (SRSA) expressed its strong interest to work in the area. As one of the major shelter agencies, SRSA is active on the field since 1995. SRSA usually operates using a self-help approach in its programmes (exceptions are projects implemented in the Klisa area near Zvornik, where reconstruction was done by contractors). Moreover, SRSA takes a view that house reconstruction on the basis of a self-help approach contributes to community building. In addition, shelter projects implemented by SRSA are usually followed by agricultural programmes as well, making the return process more sustainable. Concerning the shelter project in Kotorsko, SRSA started with reconstruction of 100 houses in August/September 2000 as a self-help programme.

Implementation in cooperation with an implementing partner – Results

Due to the SRSA managed project logistics already available on site, the DuSoCC programme management decided to join the ongoing SRSA programme by a DuSoCC sub-programme comprising full reconstruction of 11 seriously damaged or completely destroyed houses including a small water supply network rehabilitation. Sub-programme implementer: „Räddnings Verket“ - Swedish Rescue Services Agency SRSA - Community Development Project, BiH-75000 Tuzla, ulica Mihajla i Živka Crnogorčevića 1, attention Kaj Genneback & Aziz Karavdić - e-mail : srsatz@bih.net.ba

Budget – Kotorsko Self-help Shelter Programme

11 objects/families - 55 individuals

total costs: BAM 215,095 (15.05.2002) = EUR 109,976

average costs per person: BAM 3,911 (15.05.2002) = EUR 2,000

Lessons learnt

- positive experiences:
 - cost-effective approach (low-budget solution);
 - community building as a welcome side effect;
 - builder's identification with his property.
- negative experiences:
 - ever lasting project (delay in completion);
 - inappropriate use of building material - “pornotektura”;
 - “palazzo bonzo” syndrome – oversized layout (in ground plan and cross section).

Conclusion

Self-Help programme implementation under strict site supervision and store management only (!) – the partnership with a reliable implementer is essential.

Evaluation

Joint Evaluation-SHA/UNHCR of DuSoCC programme to BiH, 21 - 30 April 2002

Heinrich Gloor, Consultant, SHA/SDC, Bern & Melesse Tegegne, EESS/DOS, Geneva

EESS Mission Report 02/09

For further information

| | |
|---|--|
| Recommended contacts: | René Edward Knupfer, SHA Secondee at UNHCR Vladikavkaz |
| Recommended institutions: | SHA Berne, Specialised Group for Construction (Heinrich Gloor) |
| Recommended books/reports: | DuSoCC Briefing Kit (CD, 31 December 2004 release) |
| Relevant other projects (links): | similar SDC-HA/SHA projects in Serbia-Montenegro |