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ASB SIGNS MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING WITH FOUR MUNICIPALITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

The Office of the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB) in the Republic of Serbia in co-operation with the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees signed a number of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the municipalities of Smederevo, Bačka Palanka, Kula and Temerin regulating the provision of assistance to refugees and IDPs by providing building materials and business start-up capital under the IPA 2008 project „Support to Refugees and IDPs in Serbia“ financed by the Delegation of the European Union to Serbia. The main aim of this project is to provide durable housing solutions and economic support in accordance with the „National Strategy for Resolution of Refugee and IDP issues“.

The financial value of the signed MoUs is € 232,000.00 of which € 184,000.00 will be earmarked for providing building material kits and € 48,000.00 for business start-up activities. The signing ceremonies were held on 26 April 2010 in Smederevo for this municipality and another joint ceremony was organised in Temerin on 27 April 2010 for the municipalities of Temerin, Bačka Palanka and Kula.

In accordance with the signed MoUs, ASB in co-ordination with the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees, will implement activities in the municipalities of Smederevo, Kula, Bačka Palanka and Temerin including the provision of building material kits for refugee and IDP families who have started building their homes (Kula – 15 families, Smederevo – 15 families, Bačka Palanka – 8 families and Temerin – 8 families). In addition, ASB will provide income generating grants for business start-up (Kula – 10 businesses, Smederevo – 10 businesses, Bačka Palanka – 10 businesses and Temerin – 10 businesses).

The selection of all above-mentioned beneficiaries will be conducted in accordance with jointly adopted criteria through Commissions consisting of representatives of ASB, the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees, UNHCR and the respective municipalities. All project activities need to be finalised until the end of July 2011.

Since 1999, ASB has implemented projects valued at 10.3 million in Serbia with funds from European Commission, ECHO, 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.

For further information please contact:



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