

P R E S S R E L E A S E



Stabilitätspakt für Südosteuropa
Gefördert durch Deutschland
Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe
Sponsored by Germany

17 August 2010

GERMAN GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO FUND EMERGENCY REPAIR OF 18 HOUSES FOR ROMA/ASHKALI/EGYPTIAN FAMILIES IN KOSOVO

The Office of the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund for South Eastern Europe (ASB SEE) has recently received funds from the German Foreign Ministry, under the auspices of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, to carry out the emergency repair of 18 houses for Roma/Ashkali/Egyptian (RAE) families in the Municipalities of Prizren, Obilić and Kosovo Polje in Kosovo, along with related sustainability and winterisation measures. The value of this project is € 290,000, of which € 30,000 is being provided by ASB SEE. The project will be completed by February 2011.

The objective of this project is to contribute to the sustainable return and reintegration of the RAE families to their pre-war municipalities in Kosovo. Through this project, ASB SEE will rebuild 18 houses for RAE families who are currently living in temporary shelters throughout these municipalities. Kosovar RAE families are the most vulnerable group in society and face a spectrum of constraints in seeking minority rights. Their lives are hindered by the lack of proper housing, job opportunities, health care and protection and lack of any positive perspectives. Being a minority aggravates their position in society even further more. Due to this, they are in need of external support and assistance which was provided by ASB SEE through three similar projects in 2006, 2007 and 2009 funded by the German Government. By reconstructing their houses, ASB SEE will improve their current living conditions and also increase the chance of better living together between the host population and these refugee families.

Through this project, ASB SEE will also provide returnees with sustainability measures to guarantee the long-term prospects of their return. Eighteen RAE families will receive grant-based sustainability packages valued at € 1,000 for income generation, such as the purchase of livestock, agriculture tools and small machinery, tools and instruments. Based on individual needs, ASB SEE will provide these families with fire-wood stoves for heating and cooking purposes to help them improve their living conditions.



A project funded by
the German Foreign Ministry

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The Stability Pact is based on key experiences and lessons from worldwide international crisis management. Conflict prevention and peace building can be successful only if they start in parallel in three key sectors: the creation of a secure environment, the promotion of sustainable democratic systems, and the promotion of economic and social well-being. Only if there is progress in all three sectors can a self-sustaining process of peace be achieved. In the founding document, more than 40 partner countries and organisations undertook to strengthen the countries of South Eastern Europe "in their efforts to foster peace, democracy, respect for human rights and economic prosperity in order to achieve stability in the whole region". Euro-Atlantic integration was promised to all the countries in the region.

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ASB SEE will closely co-operate with all stakeholders involved in return such as the municipalities of Prizren, Oblić and Kosovo Polje, German KFOR, and EULEX in implementation of this project. Co-operation will be mainly in the field of beneficiary selection and information exchange. Furthermore, ASB will closely co-ordinate its activities with the German Embassy in Pristina and EU Regional Development Agencies of Kosovo.

This project is a continuation of the project implemented in 2009 under which 17 houses were repaired for 17 Roma/Askhali families in Prizren funded by the same donor.

Since 1992, ASB SEE has been providing assistance to sustainable return of refugees and displaced persons in SEE Region through emergency repairs of destroyed houses, mine-clearance, reconstruction of social infrastructure and provision of humanitarian aid with funds from the German Government. Until now, ASB SEE has implemented projects funded by the German Government for a total value of € 40 million and reconstructed more than 2,332 houses in this region.

For further information please contact:



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