

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

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ASB CONSTRUCTS APARTMENT BUILDING IN MUNICIPALITY OF TOPOLA, SERBIA WITH FUNDS FROM GERMAN GOVERNMENT

The Office of the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund in the Republic of Serbia (ASB) recently received funds from the German Federal Foreign Office under the auspices of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, to provide durable solution for eight refugee/IDP families and two socially vulnerable domicile families through the construction of an apartment building with 10 units in the Municipality of Topola, Republic of Serbia. The total value of this project amounts to € 212,055 out of which € 180,000 is being provided by the German Government, € 22,055 by ASB and € 10,000 by the municipality of Topola.

The overall aim of this project is to help close collective centres in Serbia by providing permanent housing solutions for IDPs and refugees. Therefore, under this project, ASB will provide durable housing solution for eight IDP and/or refugee families in the Municipality of Topola, as well as for two socially vulnerable domicile cases from the same municipality currently residing in inadequate private accommodation. By constructing this building, ASB will improve their living conditions along with the employment prospects and social life in this municipality, which will further help in their successful integration into the Serbian society. The Municipality of Topola currently hosts 480 refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia as well as over 450 IDPs from Kosovo. So far, over 300 families were integrated into this Municipality. The remaining IDPs and refugees, represent a high burden for this Municipality which is not in a position to support them without external support such as that provided by ASB.

The implementation of the project will be carried out in a partnership between ASB, the Municipality of Topola, the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees, UNHCR and other relevant NGOs in Serbia working on similar issues. This project will provide "Social Housing in a Supportive Environment" for a total of 10 families which will be selected by a joint commission consisting of the project partners. The concept of Social Housing in a Supportive Environment provides housing support to the selected beneficiary families but also places them under the constant supervision of the local Centre for Social Welfare and the selected host family in the apartment building. A similar project was undertaken by ASB in the municipality of Kruševac with funds from the German Government in 2009 to assist refugees and IDPs who decided not to return to their country of origin and support them in their integration into Serbian society.

Since 1992, the Office of the ASB for South Eastern Europe has been providing assistance to the sustainable return of refugees and displaced persons (DPs) in the South Eastern Europe 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 has implemented projects funded by the German Government for a total value of € 40.3 million and reconstructed more than 2,332 houses in the region.

For further information please contact:



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