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## ASB supports marginalised groups in BiH with a special focus on economic empowerment

In Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), the Office of the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB) has recently started the implementation of the "Socio-economic empowerment of particularly vulnerable groups such as female war victims and mine victims" Project in the Municipalities of Prijedor, Banja Luka, Trebinje in the Republic of Srpska, the Municipalities of Gorazde, Tuzla, Lukavac and Velika Kladusa in the BiH Federation and in the Sarajevo Canton, which is being implemented under the direct and active participation of local partner organisations such as the women's association "Through Heart to Peace" from Prijedor, the "Eco Sport Group", BiH and the women's association "Women Victims of War", BiH. This project is funded by the European Commission under the "Co-financing of the European Development NGOs" programme with the aim of contributing to the improvement of the living conditions and development prospects of disadvantage and marginalised groups in developing countries. The total value of this project is € 1,000,000 of which € 750,000 is being provided by the EC, € 100,000 by the Sarajevo Canton and € 150,000 by ASB.

The empowerment of female war victims and mine victims will be carried out by ASB through poverty reduction support measures in the field of social, human and economic development as well as civil society strengthening through the capacity building of local, non-governmental structures working with marginalised groups. ASB will increase the overall organisational and managerial capacities of the three local partner organisations through comprehensive and hands-on capacity building efforts as well as technical and financial assistance. Along with the provision of economic, grant-based sustainability measures for a number of women victims of war and mine victims, ASB will also provide socially affordable, durable housing solutions for women victims of war, specifically, women who are witnesses before the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the State Court of BiH. At the final stage of the project, ASB and local partners will organise a number of workshops aimed at transferring knowledge and gained experience to other organisations active in the same sectors.

By focusing on the economic empowerment of the vulnerable groups, ASB provides the opportunity to help heal the wounds afflicted by the war and to improve living standards through proactive involvement of potential beneficiaries in shaping their futures and creating a better tomorrow. In total, at least 444 direct beneficiaries including household members will be directly assisted and will benefit from the project.

Since 1991, ASB in BiH has implemented projects valued at over € 38.8 million and reconstructed 1,621 houses. Currently, ASB in BiH is finalising three EC-funded projects under the CARDS 2003 programme in 10 municipalities for the reconstruction of 467 houses, associated infrastructure, sustainability measures and local capacity building.

For further information please contact:



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