



ASB OFFICE FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

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

23 June 2009

GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTRY FUNDS EMERGENCY REPAIR OF 15 HOUSES FOR ROMA/ASHKALI/EGYPTIAN REFUGEE FAMILIES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PRIZREN

The Office of the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund for South Eastern Europe (ASB SEE) has recently received additional funds from the German Foreign Ministry, under the auspices of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, to carry out the emergency repair of 15 houses cat. 1-3 for Roma/Ashkali/Egyptian (RAE) refugee families in the Municipality of Prizren, Kosovo, along with related sustainability measures. The value of this project is € 267,550. The project got underway in April 2009 and will be completed by December 2009.

The overall objective of this project is to promote the return and reintegration of the Roma/Ashkali/Egyptian refugee families in Kosovo who have been returning to their pre-war municipalities in Kosovo since 2001. Under this project, ASB will rebuild 15 houses cat. 1-3 for RAE refugee families who are either living in Serbia and wish to return to Kosovo or are currently living in temporary shelters throughout the Municipality of Prizren. The poor condition of these shelters poses a significant risk to the health of these refugee families which can lead to an increased risk of tuberculosis and other respiratory diseases. The lives of these refugees are hindered by a lack of perspectives and frustration, mainly due to poor living conditions, high unemployment and an uncertain future.

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, who were relatively well integrated into their Serbian or Albanian dominated residential areas before the outbreak of the military conflicts. In addition, ASB SEE will provide these returnees with sustainability measures which will guarantee the long-term prospects of their return. Based on individual needs, ASB SEE will distribute an allowance valued at € 1,000.00 per family which will help them to improve their income situation. This project is a continuation of the project implemented in 2008 under which 13 houses were repaired for 13 Roma/Askhali families in Prizren funded by the same donor.



A project funded by
the German Foreign Ministry

German Foreign Ministry
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Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund
Deutschland e.V.

This project is implemented by
the Office of the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB)
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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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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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