

# 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

5 May 2006

## German Foreign Ministry funds emergency repair of 25 houses for Roma/Askali families with sustainability measures in the Municipality of Prizren

The Office of the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund for South Eastern Europe (ASB SEE) has recently received new funds from the German Foreign Ministry, under the auspices of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, to carry out the emergency repair of 25 houses cat. 1-5 for Roma/Askali returnees' families in the Municipality of Prizren, Province of Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro, along with related sustainability measures. The value of this project amounts to € 327,695 of which € 296,500 is being provided by the German Foreign Ministry and € 31,195 by ASB Germany. This project commenced on 1 May 2006 and will be finished in January 2007.

Starting in 1999, the Roma/Askali families began to return to their pre-war municipalities, such as Prizren, and re-establish themselves mostly without any assistance from the international community. At present, these families are staying in completely overcrowded accommodation without running water and proper waste disposal. They are dispersed throughout four larger settlements in the Municipality of Prizren. They face frustration and a lack of future perspective mainly due to poor living conditions and a high unemployment rate.

Through housing reconstruction and repairs, ASB SEE will help them to improve their living conditions and increase the likelihood of better relations with the host population. Before the conflict, these returnees were relatively well integrated into the neighbouring Serbian and Albanian dominated residential areas. 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 on average € 1,000.00 per family in sustainability measures which will help them to improve their income situation and self reliance.

Since 1992, ASB SEE has been providing assistance to the sustainable return of refugees and displaced persons in the South Eastern Europe region through emergency repairs of destroyed



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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houses, mine-clearance, reconstruction of social infrastructure, and the provision of humanitarian aid with funds from the German Government. Until now, ASB SEE has implemented projects funded by the German Government valued at of € 38 million and reconstructed more than 1,461 houses in South Eastern Europe.

For further information please contact:



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