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ASB SEE FINALISES THE EU-FUNDED PROJECT OF SOCIO- ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN WAR VICTIMS AND LANDMINE VICTIMS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Under the CARDS 2006 programme, the Office of the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund for South Eastern Europe (ASB SEE), has recently finalised 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, Trebinje and the town of Banja Luka in the Republic of Srpska, the Municipalities of Goražde, Tuzla, Velika Kladuša in the BiH Federation and in the Sarajevo Canton, in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) which was implemented under the direct and active participation of local partner organisations such as the women's associations "Through Heart to Peace" and "Women Victims of War", and the association "Eco Sport Group". The total value of this project was € 1,000,000 of which € 750,000 was provided by the European Commission (EC), € 100,000 by the Sarajevo Canton and € 150,000 by ASB.

The socio-economic empowerment of female war victims and landmine victims was carried out by ASB SEE through poverty reduction support measures in the field of social, human and economic development and through the capacity building of local, non-governmental structures working with marginalised groups. The beneficiaries were provided with job trainings in the fields of small businesses and economic development (in total 198 beneficiaries) and grant-based sustainability measures for starting-up and developing their own businesses. In total, 141 beneficiaries received grant assistance for job creation or income substitution which enabled them to become increasingly self-sustainable.

Along with these sustainability measures, ASB constructed an affordable social apartment building with eight apartments 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. In addition, ASB SEE increased 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. ASB SEE donated computers and communication equipment to each local project partner. At the final stage of the project, ASB SEE and local partners organised a number of workshops aimed at transferring knowledge and gained experience to other organisations active in the same sectors.

Through this project, ASB SEE and its partners have raised the public awareness of the local authorities and wider public on the issues affecting these marginalised groups and on the necessity of full institutional support to these vulnerable groups who are in need of greater legal protection

Since 1994, ASB SEE has implemented projects valued at over € 41.2 million and reconstructed 1,621 houses in BiH. Currently, ASB SEE is finalising a joint project with the Canton of Sarajevo in BiH for the reconstruction of 58 houses for minority Bosniak returnees, reconstruction of three health clinics and four bridges, and delivery of 25 grants for economic recovery.

For further information please contact:



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