



EU ASSISTANCE
FOR FLOOD RELIEF IN SERBIA



Republic of Serbia



Programme Funded by EU

Now we can **start again**

FLOOD RELIEF IN SERBIA 2014-2017

Implemented by:



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



AUSTRIAN
DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY



WORLD BANK GROUP

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**“NOW WE CAN START AGAIN”
FLOOD RELIEF IN SERBIA
2014-2017**

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Antifašističke borbe 14/8
11070 Belgrade
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www.asb-see.org
 asb.see  asb_see

For the publisher
Gordan Velev

Writing and editing
Tijana Laban


Design
Marko Zakovski

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Implementing partners



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ASSISTANCE TO FLOOD AFFECTED FAMILIES IN SERBIA 2014 - 2017

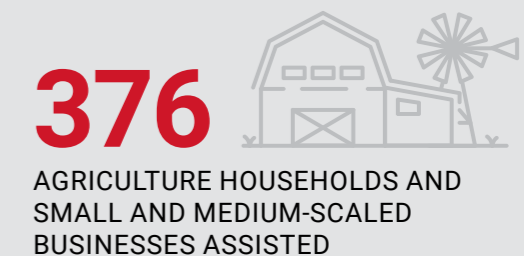
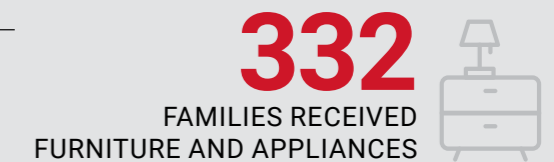
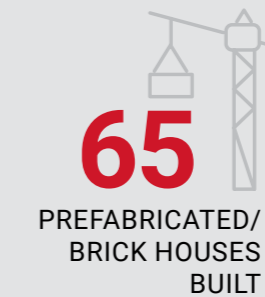
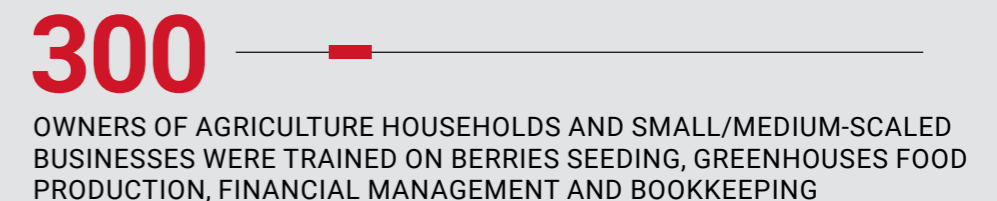
During May 2014 (later in September 2014 and March 2016) Serbia has been struck by the worst floods registered in the region over the past 120 years. During the floods 57 people lost their lives, while approximately 32,000 had to leave their homes. The losses incurred have been estimated at 1.7 billion EUR and the damages were recorded in 119 local self-governments throughout Serbia.

In order to start as soon as possible the rehabilitation, the EU funded the **European Union Assistance for Flood Relief in Serbia Programme** with 30 million EUR, secured through the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) 2012, that was implemented in 39 most affected cities and municipalities. Subsequently, with the allocation of additional 72 million EUR through IPA 2014, the Programme was expanded to 57 local self-governments, not only to provide post flood relief, but also to rehabilitate and improve the flood protection system in Serbia.

Provision and continuous support in housing reconstruction and economic revitalization to most vulnerable flood-affected families in Serbia as a part of the programme **EU Assistance for flood relief in Serbia**, is a jointly developed project implemented by the *Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB)* in partnership with *Initiative for Development and Cooperation (IDC)*, *Housing Centre (HC)* and *Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation*, aiming at helping flood-affected families to return to their homes upon performing reconstruction works, provision of new houses and providing elementary furniture and appliances. The project in the total value of 6.3 million EUR was funded through the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) 2012 and IPA 2014 and was implemented from August 2014 to July 2017.

The project also assisted agriculture households and small and medium-scaled businesses through rehabilitation of business premises and distribution of greenhouses (and related equipment), plants/seedlings, fishes/fish nutrition, tools, machines and medical/veterinary equipment, reactivating their economic capacities and prevent them from tumbling into poverty.

The action was developed in order to support the normalisation of housing conditions and the economic revitalization for most vulnerable flood-affected families in Bajina Bašta, Loznica, Ljubovija, Ljig, Mali Zvornik, Novi Pazar, Obrenovac, Osečina, Valjevo, Loznica, Šabac and Šid.



01

RECONSTRUCTION
OF HOUSES AND
APARTMENTS

Thousands of people faced devastating housing conditions following the May 2014 floods as 490 houses were completely destroyed and over 25,000 damaged to various extents. Heavy damages have occurred not only to private homes, but also to power systems, drainage, water supply and sewage systems, roads, bridges, and railroads, public infrastructure and municipal buildings, schools and health care facilities. The rivers that overtopped their banks, escaping their usual boundaries, submerged towns and villages, and caused road blockades that made a large number of villages cut-off and isolated, while the landslides destroyed many houses.

The families, many of them belonging to socially vulnerable groups, that lost their homes with furniture, appliances and personal possessions, had to find temporary accommodation. Those whose houses were not completely destroyed, but unfit for living due to high levels of water, mud and moisture that penetrated the houses, were also searching for a temporary home. Owing to the European Union assistance, *Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB)* and partner organizations *Initiative for Development and Cooperation (IDC)*, *Housing Centre (HC)* and *Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation* were able to reconstruct 722 flood-affected homes in 12 municipalities in Serbia: Bajina Bašta, Loznica, Ljubovija, Ljig, Mali Zvornik, Novi Pazar, Obrenovac, Osečina, Valjevo, Loznica, Šabac and Šid. The works most often included mortaring, skimming and painting the walls, replacing the floors, replacing doors and windows. Many families say that now they have better living conditions than before.

722
HOMES RECONSTRUCTED

2035
PERSONS

2.44 M
EUR ALLOCATED

Popović family

Rača village, Bajina Bašta

The home of the three-member family Popović from the village Rača in Bajina Bašta, with mother Branka (62) and sons Milutin (27) and Nenad (23) suffered great damage, when outer and inner walls cracked because of the landslide caused by the floods. The Popović family lives of modest income - Branka is seasonally employed on raspberry picking, while Milutin works occasionally for wages. Nenad has disability since birth, so he receives state benefits for care and assistance.

After the despair they found themselves in, the Popović family is now endlessly happy because their home is completely renewed. The cracks on the walls and the ceiling have been fixed; the roof, floors and doors and windows have been replaced.



With the European Union assistance, 39 damaged houses were reconstructed in Bajina Bašta.



“

I could never fix the house on my own. Now I feel like we have a new home and I say - God exists! I can't compare our house before and after it has been repaired. We are really happy, especially because now we can Christmas in our new home.

- says Milutin

Popović family

Obrenovac

"We are thrilled we can finally take a break and after almost two years, sleep in clean, warm and almost new house" says Dragoljub Popović from Obrenovac who is one of the 1,018 beneficiaries in Obrenovac whose house was reconstructed by ASB and project partners, under the EU for flood relief Programme.

With the funds provided by the EU, 414 families in Obrenovac received reconstruction of their most severely damaged homes.



My pension is 18.000 dinars and with that we can barely afford to pay the bills and buy food, let alone reconstruct our flooded home. Now everything is fixed, we have new bathroom, walls in whole house are painted, new floors and new windows and doors. We couldn't be more grateful for this help.

– says Dragoljub

Urošević family

Obrenovac

Nadežda Urošević lost her husband in May 2014 floods. She, her daughter and two grandkids were evacuated first, but when the rescue services returned for her husband it was already too late. As she says, her life was marked by series of tragedies and misfortunes. Her son was killed in car accident 17 years ago and she took over the care of his son, her young granddaughter suffers from heart condition and was in the hospital during the floods and her daughter is unemployed single mother. After the floods, without a husband to relay on, for the sake of her grandchildren she tried not to despair and to be strong, but chances were against her.



Urošević family, as 414 other families in Obrenovac, were assisted by reconstruction of their flooded home, throughout the project funded by the European Union.



What can I say? How can you find proper words to thank someone who has helped to start your life again, after you thought you will spend the rest of your days sleeping in moldy bed? I don't care about myself but now my granddaughter has better place to grow up in.

– says Nadežda

Isaković family

Šabac

Dragan Isaković (49) lives with his wife Sladjana (44) and daughter Slavica (20) in a family house in Miokus village near the city of Šabac. Their house suffered extensive damage in the May 2014 Floods and they lost most of their livestock. Without any regular income, the family was unable to reconstruct their home by themselves.

Family Isaković is one of 51 beneficiary families whose houses were fully reconstructed in Šabac, under the EU for flood relief in Serbia Programme.



We were desperate after we saw our house, totally damaged and full of mud and dirt. All our memories and possessions were lost and we started to lose faith that we will ever move back to our home. But now, we couldn't be more grateful to the people and the donor who helped us and restore not only our house but our old life as well.

– says Slađana

Jovanović family

Šabac

The house of Mileta Jovanović (52) and his son Milan (31) was severely damaged during the floods in May 2014. The water level was 20 cm, but the house suffered the significant damage because it was built with bricks without any concrete elements. This two member family lives of modest income – Mileta inherited late wife's pension and his son Milan earns by working in elementary school as mathematics professor with 60% of working time.



We received state assistance for our damaged house, but it wasn't enough. With that money we were able to reconstruct only part of the house. Without the EU support it wouldn't be possible to finish our house and because of that we will be forever grateful.

– says Mileta Jovanović

Milošević family

Jamena village, Šid

The house in which Milivoje Milošević (40) family of four live in the Srem village of Jamena suffered great damages when torrential floods filled up their entire home. Milivoje, together with the other people of Jamena, helped rescue and evacuate people. The loss of their home was difficult for the children and they could not wait to return home. In addition to the house, the Milošević family lost a plum orchard and garden, which supplied them with food. After the water withdrew leaving a wasteland behind, the Milošević family was living at their neighbor's who let them use his house.

The works, among other things, included repairs to the facade, inside walls and floors, putting new tiles, replacing doors, windows and installations, and the construction of a new septic tank. The house was then equipped with household appliances and furniture.



Everything we had was lost in a second. We were lucky to receive the European Union assistance. We are living on social welfare and child cash benefits, so we could not have the house reconstructed on our own. I am very grateful for this.

– Milivoje tells us





02

CONSTRUCTION
OF HOUSES

Following the May 2014 floods 490 families lost their homes after their houses were completely destroyed in the flooding. One of the priorities of the Programme **EU assistance for flood relief in Serbia** was to enable decent living conditions to the vulnerable families who were seriously affected by the floods with construction of new homes equipped with basic furniture and home appliances.

Owing to the European Union assistance, *Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB)* and partner organizations *Initiative for Development and Cooperation (IDC)*, *Housing Centre (HC)* and *Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation* were able to construct 65 new houses in 12 municipalities in Serbia: Bajina Bašta, Loznica, Ljubovija, Ljig, Mali Zvornik, Novi Pazar, Obrenovac, Osečina, Valjevo, Loznica, Šabac and Šid.

 **197**
BENEFICIARIES

65 
HOMES RECONSTRUCTED

1.44 M 
EUR ALLOCATED

Marković family

Osečina

May 2014 Floods activated several landslides in the village Komirić near the municipality of Osečina, causing irreparable damage to many houses. One of the families who lost their home during the floods is five-member family Marković. Their house suffered structural damage, making it unsafe for living, but having nowhere to go, they continued living there, constantly fearing the walls were going to collapse.

Six families received new houses equipped with new furniture and home appliances in Osečina owing to the EU assistance.



“

Before the floods we were living in an old house, without bathroom and toilette. When they told me they will build me a new house of 95m² I thought I was dreaming, but I believed them, even though it seemed too good to be true. What I didn't believe is that it will only take one month to construct and furnish it. Everything is new, we finally have enough space for all of us and we are so happy.

– says Mirko Marković

Rajić family

Ljubovija

Flash flood in May 2014 destroyed home of Rajić family in the Drljača village near Ljubovija, leaving the three member's family without roof over their head. The family earns for life from occasional jobs Goran succeeds to find and small piece of land they grew vegetables on.

Eight families in Ljubovija were given new houses owing to the European Union assistance.



In the time of the flooding, my wife and I were unemployed, without a single dinar in our pocket. We didn't have much even before the floods and our house was very old and in need of renovation, but it was our home and we were happy. When we lost even that we were desperate and hopeless, but now, in our new, beautiful home we can start again.

– says Goran

Jokić family

Šid

When the Village of Jamena near Šid on the border between Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina was flooded in May 2015, the Jokić family of seven members lost their hard-earned home. War veteran Cvijan (47) moved to this village in Srem in 1991, married Radica and they lived together paying rent for over a decade. During the floods, Cvijan participated in the evacuation and saving of villagers, while his family was evacuated. Upon return, they found their home and furniture completely destroyed. The Jokić family spent several months in a tent put up in their garden, after which their neighbors offered temporary accommodation.



When we finally made our home and our life, we were hit by the flood. But now, thanks to the European Union donation, we have a new home. We got furniture and home appliances. Our happiness and gratitude is immense, and our children can now keep on growing in peace.

– says Cvijan Jokić

Vasić family

Straža village, Loznica

An unemployed single mother Ljiljana Vasić (42) lives with her five children in her family house in village Straža near Loznica. Her greatest backup is her family which wholeheartedly supports her. Their home has suffered huge damage in the floods that stroke Loznica in May 2014, and when water started to penetrate into their house in the middle of the night, they were completely shocked.

Through the European Union Assistance for Flood Relief in Serbia Programme, ASB and project partners constructed 13 new houses in Loznica for the families whose homes were destroyed in the floods.



“

We moved over to our cousins', and our neighbor was bringing us flour. I baked bread so that the children would have something to eat. Floods used to happen here, but it had never been like in that May. I hate to remember it. I was petrified, but I had to be strong because of the children.

– says Ljiljana

Popović family

Valjevo

The May 2014 floods activated two landslides above the home of the four member Popović family – Miodrag (60), Milena (79), Leposava (49) and Dejan (29) in the Vujinovača village near Valjevo. Half of their house was totally devastated, and the other half reaming just between these landslides, making it unsafe for living.

A new, brick, 80 square metres house was constructed for Popović family and fully furnished and with new home appliances.



“

We had finished renovation of our house just two months before the Floods. All of our savings were invested in that and everything we've worked for so long just collapsed in one night. Still, good people found us and provided us new home big enough for all of us and we can't thank them enough.

– says Miodrag

03

SUPPORT FOR
AGRICULTURE
AND SMALL
BUSINESSES


Complementarily to (re)construction of private houses, the project supported small and medium scale business which have lost their income as a consequence of the Floods in May 2014. Goal of the project team was to revitalize their economic activities in the shortest period of time in order for them to be able to generate income and prevent them from tumbling into poverty.

The main focus was on crafts workshops, small businesses and agriculture-orientated family households. Awarded grants assisted the rehabilitation of 376 businesses and agriculture producers through rehabilitation of business premises including amongst others shops, stables and distribution of greenhouses (and related equipment), plants/seedlings, fishes/fish nutrition, tools, machines and medical/veterinary equipment.

259 
AGRICULTURE HOUSEHOLDS ASSISTED

34 
DAMAGED SHOPS/
STABLES RENOVATED

117 
SMALL & MEDIUM-SCALED
BUSINESSES ASSISTED

300  owners of agriculture households and small/medium-scaled businesses were trained on berries seeding, greenhouses food production, financial management and bookkeeping

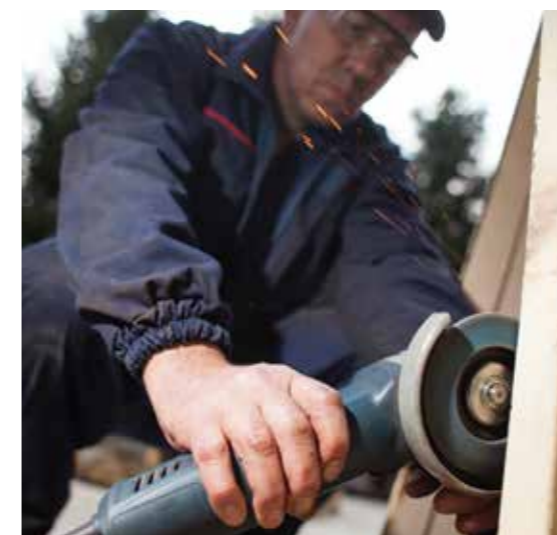
0.87 M 
EUR ALLOCATED

Elektron

Loznica

The enterprise Elektron started the production of different types of machines – dryers, sterilisers and dental equipment in 1986. After suffering severe damage in the floods, Elektron was on the verge of bankruptcy, which meant 15 employees would be left jobless and their families without any income. The water level, which kept rising for four days, seriously damaged the building, while the machines were partially or totally broken.

Owing to the hard work of all employees and the EU assistance, enterprise Elektron is again producing machines, while all of its workers kept their jobs.



“

We didn't believe the good news when the people from the Programme approached us and told us they want to include us in the assistance measures. Up until that point not a single promise about the assistance was fulfilled. However the help came and the only thing we can do is to express our gratitude and say we are over thrilled.

– said Luka Jamina, the co-owner of Elektron

Fish farm DB Food

Bajina Bašta

Dragan Jagodić's family of five in the Village of Rogačica live off a small but successful trout farm called DB Food which has been operating since 2007. When the river Rogačica flooded in May 2014, it destroyed the farm and left great damage on the tanks, with the damage estimated at over 20 million RSD. The business operations were ceased, which also affected the families of 12 employees.

Through the European Union Assistance for Flood Relief in Serbia Programme, DB Food received construction material to reconstruct the tanks and renew trout production.



Before the river flooded all our workers were mobilised to build a defence wall, but we weren't able to save the farm. Owing to the construction material that we received from the EU, we were able to complete the feed channel, part of the sedimentation tank, which the water took away in the floods. This assistance means a lot to us because we can farm trout again.

– says Dragan Jagodić

Ilić family

Bajina Bašta

The entrepreneur Obradin Ilić's (72) family of seven from the village Rogačica near Bajina Bašta has for generations been living off greenhouse farming. The entire family has been involved in the growing of vegetable crops, being among the largest producers in this part of the country. However, their fields with 24 greenhouses were destroyed on 15 May 2014 when the river Rogačica flooded.

The Ilić family is one of the 67 businesses and entrepreneurs from Bajina Bašta that have received European Union assistance to recover their business operations after the floods in May 2014.



Suddenly there was a torrent that took away the greenhouses and the layer of fertile soil, where we produced the crops. When the water withdrew, I was set on succeeding in recovering it, and until now a large part of the work has been done. The assistance from the European Union has meant a lot to us, because we managed to complete the recovery of the greenhouses.

– says Obradin Ilić

Veteuro

Obrenovac

Pet owners in Obrenovac have relayed in veterinarian Slavica Sarić to treat their pets since 2008. Still, her veterinary office “Veteuro” was one of many businesses that almost stopped working due to extensive damage caused by water that flooded almost 90% of Obrenovac in May 2014.

Veteuro is one of 44 small and medium scale businesses in Obrenovac rehabilitated owing to the EU support under the project implemented by ASB, IDC, Housing Centre and Divac Foundation.



“

I received donation of new veterinary biochemical analyzer, otoscope-ophthalmoscope, electrical binocular microscope and centrifuge, equipment necessary for my work, but which I wasn't able to provide by myself. Now I am working with even better apparatus that help me treat more patients.

– says Slavica

Stelit 90

Obrenovac

Stelit 90 is a family owned company, managed by Mihailo Jevtić with the help of his father. Primary activities of the company are design, production and mounting of processing equipment and instalments, industrial dust suppression instalments, and equipment for recycling and environmental protection, exporting products to Switzerland, France, Finland and Russia. Floods in May 2014 destroyed several machines for the production process and the company with 17 employees during that time was operationally stopped.

Throughout the EU assistance for Flood Relief Programme, the company received two machines – a compressor and polisher, which enabled re-hiring of 17 employees and continuation of export of their products.



“

My company, as so many other businesses and private houses in Obrenovac, suffered considerable damage and I was afraid that all of my employees, including me, will be left without job and income. Fortunately, EU provided me enough help to start again.

– says Mihajlo

Matković family

Valjevo

The Matković family, which supports itself solely out of agriculture, is comprised of three generations. The mother Milena (74), is a housewife with a minimum agricultural pension, which is the only regular income family receives; unemployed sons Zvonko (52) and Milan (48), grandson Lazar (15) and the granddaughter Angđela (13). The Matković family owns around 3.5 ha of arable land, excluding pastures. The focus of production is fruits, mainly plums and raspberries and livestock. A small river Omnica during the May 2014 Floods destroyed the road to their village, initiated landslides on the fields with planted raspberries and contaminated the pastures causing the death of 27 sheep.

The European Union donation, throughout the EU Assistance for flood relief in Serbia Programme, consisted of 2700 raspberry seedlings, an anti-hail net for 10 acres, two irrigation systems for 10 acres of crops with solid pipes and 150 kg zinc wire for binding raspberries and blackberries. The Matković family is one of 19 agriculture households in Valjevo that received assistance throughout the project.



This donation means everything to us. After so much misfortune, we are now finally able to start over. With this help we succeeded to plant 35 acres raspberries of best quality and we are very grateful. We hope we will have a good yield from raspberries because now we are solely depended on that.

– says Milan

Braća Nikolić

Valjevo

“Braća Nikolić” (Nikolić Brothers) is a family owned car, bus and truck washing company managed by Željko Nikolić from Valjevo. During the 2014 floods, his business, like many others, suffered severe damage and several machines necessary for their work broke down. Željko invested all of his savings in rehabilitation of his company, but still he needed additional help.

“Braća Nikolić” company is one of the 24 small and medium scale business supported throughout the project in Valjevo.



We are finally working in full capacity after almost three years after the floods. I tried to fix old machines or by new ones, but I didn't have sufficient funds for everything. The European Union donated us high pressure washer for hot wash, valuable machine for our daily work, and we couldn't ever be thankful enough.

– says Željko

Ivantić family

Ljubovija

In villages in the surroundings of Ljubovija, many families who support themselves by agriculture production lost much of their harvest and machines during the May 2014 floods. Consequently, landslides in the area activated, destroying greenhouses and equipment, severe loss for these hardworking families. Such is the family Ivantić from the village of Gornja Ljubovađa. Budimir and his wife are unemployed and their two daughters are going to high school.

Under the EU for flood relief in Serbia Programme, Ivantić family received two greenhouses with irrigation system just in time for spring planting.



After the floods, our two greenhouses were destroyed and almost all of the planted vegetables were lost. We had a hard time to compensate for all of the damage caused by floods, with no funds and no vegetables to sell. We tried not to despair because we still had our house and we know so many people who had it worse, but sometimes it was difficult to be strong. Thanks to the support of the EU, we finally succeeded to recover from all of the damage caused by the floods. Now we will have a fruitful yield for both ourselves and for sale.

– says Budimir



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