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HOLISTIC APPROACH TO HOUSING FOR ROMA IN THE ENLARGEMENT REGION

31 May - 1 June 2018, Bar, Montenegro

Before...



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This is where 170 Roma families with 720 family members used to live before we started...



Let's Build a Home Together – phase 1 2013-2016



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Purpose

- Provision of durable housing solutions for up to 110 Roma families affected by resettlement actions in the City of Belgrade

Donors

- European Union funded the project with 3.6 million Euros
- City of Belgrade provided plots, urban planning documentations, issued permits and enabled infrastructure connections to the utility networks

Project duration

- February 2013 - May 2016

Let's Build a Home Together – phase 1



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Main objectives:

- Build a home for up to 110 Roma families affected by the resettlement actions in the City of Belgrade
- Establish the resettlement procedures and processes that are fully in line with the international human rights standards
- Test possible models for durable housing solutions in order to set standards for future support to Roma families

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Key results:

110 Roma families with 512 family members

(245 female 267 male) have durable housing solution

- Fifty-nine (59) families live in social housing units
- Forty-one (41) families live in village households
- Ten families were supported to reconstruct own property

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Complementary active inclusion measures:

- Sets of furniture and household appliances
- Tools, equipment and machines for income generation
- Laptop computers for school children
- Transportations of family members and household belongings

- Personal documents
- Access to education, health, employment and social welfare services upon the moving

- In coordination with relevant national and local authorities and institutions, RNMC, Roma Coordinators and CSOs

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Participation of Roma men, women and children in the project implementation:

- Roma men, women and children actively participated throughout the project implementation
- Gender equality has been addressed within each area of the project, and women have been encouraged to take an active part in each step of project implementation, particularly in decision making

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Policy Level - Development of Roma housing model:

- Four methodologies developed and implemented
- Two analyses prepared
- Rulebook on Criteria for Selection of Beneficiary Families developed
- Two social housing models defined, ensuring legal security of tenure for Roma families and affordable housing solution
- The social housing in protected environment was introduced for the first time as a model of social housing for the Roma population in the City of Belgrade

And now...



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Let's Build a Home Together – phase 2 2017-2019



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Purpose

To provide durable housing solution support for 44 families with 214 family members affected by the resettlement action

- 22 social housing units to be constructed
- 22 village houses to be purchased and reconstructed

Donors

- European Union funded the project with 1.5 million Euros
- City of Belgrade provides plot, urban planning documentations, permits, landscaping and infrastructure connections

Project duration

- 1 March 2017 – 28 February 2019

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Lessons Learned:

- Strong support of the key decision makers
- Meaningful participation of the affected communities
- Ownership issues and urban planning conditions solved
- Co-funding for the land plot development and the utility connections ensured
- Legal security of tenure ensured beyond project implementation
- Complementary active inclusion measures
- Coordination within national/local authorities, institutions, CSOs and beneficiaries associations

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CONCLUSIONS:

- The project “Let's Build a Home Together” was designed as a pilot initiative and estimated as a high-risk project
- We have come a long way with this project and can be proud of the achieved results
- All together, we will continue to prove that Roma housing projects can indeed be a success and sustainable
- The best practices in the domain of the right to adequate housing for Roma from informal settlements in Serbia could be replicated throughout the country

Beneficiaries say...



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- “There is nothing better than own home”.
- “I can't wait to welcome people to my home”.
- “The best for me is that we have windows and doors. There's no wind blowing through the house now”.
- “Do you know how it used to be? Bad. Then it was better. Now it's the best!”





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Thank you.