**BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA**

**Responses to the request for contributions by UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing**

Pursuant to Article 12 of the Law on Ministries, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees is in charge of monitoring the implementation of international multilateral agreements BiH has signed, ratified or accepted by succession, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights under which one initial and two periodic reports were submitted to the relevant UN Committee.

Article 11 of this Covenant recognizes the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. Bearing in mind the above, we are providing below the responses made by this Ministry in cooperation with the competent authorities from all levels of government in BiH.

Provision of Roma housing

Roma is the largest national minority in Bosnia and Herzegovina and, by all social parameters that are taken into account when assessing the social status of a community or social group, the most vulnerable group according to accessible data obtained through the process of registering Roma needs and other researches. None of all national minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina is in a grave and problamatic social position a bit similar to the situation of the Roma minority, whose representatives live almost throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, more precisely, in 71 municipalities

In order to collect comprehensive and usable data about Roma, and as it is necessary to determine the realistic needs of Roma for the following four-year period (2017-2020), the MHRR sent out data requests to 71 local communities in which members of the Roma community live in greater or lesser numbers. Based on questionnaires filled in by 31 local communities, the MHRR has obtained data that currently around 4,650 Roma families live in these communities, and that 729 require provision of adequate housing.

In the last eight years, a total of BAM 13,023,000.00 was allocated to housing, from which 782 buildings for Roma families were constructed or reconstructed, which means that around 3,900 Roma or approximately 13% of the total Roma population were provided with housing. Roma housing was provided through local communities and international and domestic Roma non-governmental organisations. In order to ensure more efficient and transparent spending of these grant funds, the MHRR partnered only local communities in the last two years. In the past period, the Roma housing project also included IPA funds (EUR 5,000,000), as well as a smaller amount of funds from NGOs and local communities, which is mostly reflected in administrative support, utility infrastructure and allocation of construction plots.

Provision of displaced pesons housing

According to the December 2016 data, there were 32,611 displaced families or 98,574 displaced persons, of which 38,345 or 40.6% were displaced in the territory of the Federation of BiH, 59,834 or 58.8% in Republika Srpska and 395 or 0.5% in the Brcko District of BiH.

In the period from 30 October 2015 to 30 December 2016, 933 housing units were reconstructed for the purpose of return. Of the reconstructed 933 housing units, 10 housing units were reconstructed through the project of Croatian Government, 179 housing units were reconstructed through the IPA 2012 Project, 14 housing units were reconstructed by OPEC, 106 housing units were reconstructed by the Saudi Development Fund, 98 housing units were reconstructed through the Regional Housing Program, 3 housing units were reconstructed with emergency funds of the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 58 housing units were reconstructed from the budget of the Ministry of Refugees and Displaced Persons of Republika Srpska, 379 housing units were reconstructed from the budget of the Federation Ministry of Displaced Persons and Refugees and 86 housing units were reconstructed from the budget of the Brčko District of BiH.

When it comes to refugees and displaced persons housing, it is especially important to highlight the Regional Housing Programme (RHP) implemented by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia and Serbia. RHP will provide permanent and durable housing for about 27,000 most vulnerably families with a total of about 74,000 persons of the region with a view to closing the long-term displacement resulting from the 1991-1995 conflict in the region.

The Country Housing Project (CHP) within Regional Housing Programme targets refugees and displaced persons: 5,400 households or 14,000 individuals, in BiH. The total value of the project for BiH is EUR 101 million. Bosnia and Herzegovina'a share amounts to EUR 15 million, of which the majority is covered by the multi-donor RHP Fund adminstered by the Council of Europe Development Bank. The major donor is the European Union and significat funds are contributed by the United States, Italy, Germany, Norway, Switzerland, Denmark, Turkey and other donor countries. Very strong support is provided to the RHP by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – UNHCR and the the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe - OSCE.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has designated the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina as the Lead Institution of the Country Housing Project and has entrusted the sub-project implementation to the Federation of BiH Ministry of Displaced Persons and Refugees, the Republika Srpska Ministry of Refugees and Herzegovina and the Department of Refugees, Displaced Persons and Housing Issues of the Brčko District of BiH Government. The impementation started in 2013 and the completion of the project is planned in 2020.