



Social inclusion and education

A return to a normal life for Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in Serbia

*Mr Nikolić: "We used to live in a cardboard village without any hygiene conditions. No human being would have endured what we have during the past 11 years. But thanks to this project we finally have a roof above our head."
Mr Berisha: "I must say it has been 11 years since I have taken a shower, I mean I have showered, but not in a bathroom."*

Beneficiaries of the project



Project Partners

Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund

Government of the Republic of Serbia

Commissariat for Refugees of the Republic of Serbia

City of Požarevac

Facts and Figures

- Project implementation period: 01/03/2009 – 28/10/2010
- Overall budget: € 1,760,000
- Amount provided by the EU: € 1,600,000 (91%)
- Contribution of Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund: € 160,000
- Number of families assisted in Požarevac: 20
- Number of individuals: 105 (66 children)

Context

Even 19 years after the conflicts, Serbia still hosts 74,500 refugees from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as 210,000 internally displaced persons from Kosovo, with the Roma being one of the most vulnerable groups. In Požarevac, central Serbia, 20 Roma families which fled Kosovo in 1999 have been living for 11 years in an illegal settlement, where "houses" were made out of cardboard and scrap metal. Hygiene conditions were so poor that children could not go to school and many were even identified with rat bites. The Požarevac authorities provided a land plot where 20 prefabricated houses were constructed with EU funds. The project was implemented by the German NGO Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund. After 11 years, life has finally returned to normal for 105 Roma people from Kosovo.

Objectives

- Provide durable housing solutions for the IDP and refugee population in Serbia

Impact

- 20 internally displaced Roma families moved from an inhumane collective centre to houses where they could lead a normal life.
- These 20 families were taught the basics of sustainable living, given ideas on how to start up a business or undertake other activities which can bring financial independence.
- After 11 years of living at the brink of society, the project has provided the families with social support to help them re-integrate into normal life in Požarevac.

For more information:

www.asb-see.org, www.europa.rs and www.kirs.gov.rs