



UN-HABITAT

SIRP PROGRAMME IN SERBIA

The **Settlement and Integration of Refugees Programme** aims to develop sustainable settlement and integration solutions for low-income refugees and other vulnerable households and to build capacities at municipal and central levels for replication and upscaling. Important goal is to put the Social Housing Sector nearer to the preconditions for integration in the EU.

The Government of Italy has funded the Programme which is implemented by UN-HABITAT. At central level, SIRP will be executed together with the Ministry for Capital Investments, whereas at local level it will be implemented in seven selected Municipalities: Municipality of Cacak, City of Kragujevac, Municipality of Kraljevo, City of Nis, Municipality of Pancevo, Municipality of Stara Pazova, Municipality of Valjevo.

OVERALL OBJECTIVES

- Support provided to the process of national reforms in the Housing Sector and in Planning, paying particular attention to social aspects and to issues related to local/regional development respectively
- Capacity of central and local administrations built up and harmonisation with EU standards facilitated in the fields of social housing, planning for development and support to vulnerable groups

INTEGRATED PROGRAMME

SIRP comprises *three components* to be developed in an integrated framework:

- **HOUSING** - policies, instruments, 670 housing solutions
- **MUNICIPAL STRENGTHENING** - local strategic development plans, capacity building
- **INTEGRATION OF REFUGEES** - social and economic integration of refugees and local vulnerable population (services for the elderly, training, support to microfinance schemes)

EXPECTED RESULTS

- 670 sustainable housing solutions are delivered in seven municipalities to low income refugees and other vulnerable households
- Institutional tools and capacities are established at local and central level to develop and manage social housing programs
- National institutions and six municipalities have developed capacities, information tools and implementation bodies to produce comprehensive strategic plans for local and territorial development and to implement subsequent sector strategies and action plans
- Pilot initiatives for social, economic and civic integration of low-income refugees and other vulnerable households are agreed and implemented through a decentralised management system

The programme is organised along the following lines:

COMPONENT LEVEL	HOUSING COMPONENT Social Housing	MUNICIPAL COMPONENT Planning for Development and Info-System	SECI COMPONENT Social Economic and Civic Integration of refugees and other vulnerable groups
NATIONAL AUTHORITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support process of national reforms and formulation of National Social Housing Strategy and related instruments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance Planning for Development training and monitoring capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce the capacity to design and manage decentralised, ex-post controlled development and social programmes
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build capacities of Local Housing Agencies • Support to design the Local Housing Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the introduction of Planning for Dev. approach • Build up capacity to mobilise local actors • Improve the Municipal Info system • Assist in identification of territorial vocations, objectives and priorities for local /regional development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support local administration in setting up and managing demand-driven social, economic and civic integration programmes • Enhance mobilisation of financial resources for socio-economic development • Improve social info-system
BENEFICIARIES & OTHER LOCAL ACTORS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver 670 diverse housing solutions according to needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster the introduction of participatory planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stimulate the capacity of local actors to translate needs into projects and improve socio-economic integration of vulnerable groups • Finance local initiatives according to agreed priorities • Provide specific support packages for social housing beneficiaries

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United Nations Human Settlements Programme

The **MISSION** of UN-HABITAT is to promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and adequate shelter for all.

HISTORY

UN-HABITAT was originally established in 1978 as an outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat I) held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976.

UN-HABITAT was the secretariat for the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul, Turkey, in June 1996. Dubbed the "City Summit", this conference formulated the Habitat Agenda and the Istanbul Declaration, by which governments committed themselves to the goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanising world.

At Istanbul+5, held in June 2001, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium was adopted by the General Assembly. It entrusted UN-HABITAT with the continued responsibility for supporting the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

UN-HABITAT's activities contribute to the overall objective of the United Nations system to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development.

STRATEGY

In 1999, a new strategic vision aiming at balancing normative and operational activities was adopted by UN-HABITAT. This vision entails focusing the Programme's activities around four strategic functions:

Advocacy and Policy advice: draws the world's attention to crucial human settlements problems, thus spurring governments and other organisations into policy reforms and action. The principal vehicles for UN-HABITAT's current work are global campaigns on selected strategic issues and World Habitat Day.

Research and Monitoring: entails co-ordination of global efforts, within and outside the United Nations, in monitoring human settlements conditions and progress in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, as well as in identifying and developing innovative solutions and practices in human settlements development. The results are disseminated through two publications, the 'Global Report on Human Settlements' and the 'State of the World Cities Report', as well as through technical publications.

Training and capacity building: strengthens the institutional and human resources to plan, develop, and manage human settlements, within the framework of local government. Important tools include training workshops targeting local authority leaders, as well as the development, testing, and dissemination of training materials.

Technical co-operation: National and local governments are offered advisory services, technical support, and help with the mobilisation of the financial and human resources needed to implement sustainable projects.

FUNDING

UN-HABITAT's budget is drawn from four main sources: contributions from multilateral and bilateral partners for technical co-operation; contributions from the UN Regular Budget; voluntary non-earmarked contributions from Member States; earmarked contributions by some bilateral partners.

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SIRP ACTIVITIES

The overall project concept is based on the provision of direct social housing schemes for refugees and vulnerable households in Municipality of Cacak, City of Kragujevac, Municipality of Kraljevo, City of Nis, Municipality of Pancevo, Municipality of Stara Pazova, Municipality of Valjevo. The project will also facilitate the formulation of local development strategies, strengthen local social services in assisting beneficiary groups whose integration is particularly difficult or unlikely to happen (such as isolated elderly people, single jobless parents, etc.). Such integrated approach to refugee issues will be included in a more comprehensive and wider exercise of strategic development planning. Target beneficiaries are low-income refugees representing 80% of total beneficiary households in each Municipality. Local low-income households from non-refugees vulnerable groups will represent the remaining 20%.

The project's activities are in full compliance with international norms and recommendations, including principles adopted by Governments in the Habitat Agenda and the UN-HABITAT Global Campaigns on Secure Tenure and Urban Governance designed to support the Habitat Agenda Goals of "adequate shelter for all" and "sustainable human settlements development in an urbanising world".

Expected Result 1

Delivering 670 housing solutions in seven municipalities to low-income refugees and other vulnerable households.

To achieve the above result, SIRP will perform five groups of activities:

1. SIRP will prepare **guidelines** on housing standards and process for projects development and implementation, **and related template documents**, and will support Municipal Housing Agencies in the selection process of projects for 530 new constructions.
2. Supervision of the **tendering process for construction, organisation of construction works and disbursement of project funds**
3. SIRP Office will support, participate and supervise the **process of selecting beneficiaries** for the housing component and **delivering of housing solutions**.
4. Support in the **development of 140 alternative housing solutions**, according to innovative European practices in developing and improving affordable housing solutions for low-income and vulnerable groups.
5. **Support Municipalities to establish sustainable instruments**, Municipal Housing Agency, for development and management of housing projects.

Expected Result 2

Preparation and adoption of Municipal/City Housing Strategies with appropriate tools and capacities for implementation.

To achieve the above result, SIRP will perform four groups of activities:

1. Support to the Ministry for Capital Investments for the preparation of **guidelines for Municipal Housing Strategies**.
2. SIRP will support 7 Municipalities to formulate **Municipal Housing Strategies and Action Plans**, which will be prepared by Municipal Housing Agencies under the responsibility of Municipal Administrations and following an extended consultative process.
3. Support the Ministry for Capital Investments in the formulation process of **National Housing Policy**, based on the principles internationally agreed under the Habitat Agenda and applied throughout the European Region.
4. Support formulation of **National Strategy and Action Plan for Social Housing**, which will be established through consultative process involving experts and decision makers from relevant central and city institutions, finance institutions, researchers and practitioners, and representatives from the private sector and the civil society.

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Expected Result 3

National institutions and six Municipalities have developed capacities, information tools and implementation bodies to produce comprehensive strategic plans for local and territorial development and to implement subsequent sector strategies and action plans

To achieve the above result, SIRP will perform five groups of activities:

1. Supporting the **building up of sustainable training capacity** on strategic planning for development. This will allow to replicate the SIRP activity in other municipalities not covered by the Programme.
2. **Training stakeholders** from 6 municipalities on strategic planning and on integrated territorial projects.
3. **Upgrade and integrate the information systems** at municipal level, providing the additional information required to extend the local planning exercise to the social, economic and civic cohesion aspects. SIRP will ensure that a standard info-kits hardware and software will be available in *Cacak, Kragujevac, Kraljevo, Nis, Pancevo and Valjevo*.
4. **Enable the six Municipalities to draft sectorial development strategies** through participatory approach. Such activities will be implemented by building on the skills developed through the training activities and by using the enhanced information systems. Municipalities will be assisted for participatory development of sectoral strategies: i) *Local development plans* based on tools commonly used in the EU; ii) *Poverty Reduction Local Strategies*; iii) *Civic integration and community safety strategies*. Preliminary steps for strategic planning will be performed wherever deemed appropriate.
5. **Support local bodies/agencies to translate strategies into action**. SIRP will support the establishment and strengthening of: i) *Municipal Development Units*, that will represent the tool for public-private partnerships for local development; ii) *Local development networks*, i.e. Informal co-ordination bodies of development projects; iii) local *Coalitions for socio-economic and civic integration* of vulnerable groups.

Expected Result 4

Agree and implement Pilot Initiatives for social, economic and civic integration of low-income refugees and other vulnerable households through a decentralised management system.

To achieve the above result, SIRP will perform three groups of activities:

1. Provide specific assistance to public-rental housing beneficiaries with a **direct support package** to enhance their ability to pay for the rent and to improve their integration in the local society. Goods and services included in each package will be agreed with each Municipality and with the beneficiaries. Up to **335 direct support packages** will be provided.
2. Establish a **pilot project facility** to support all vulnerable groups (i.e. not only refugees) in *Cacak, Kragujevac, Kraljevo, Nis, Pancevo and Valjevo*. Local stakeholders will be encouraged and assisted to submit proposals for local development pilot projects aimed at implementing initiatives for social, economic and civic integration of vulnerable beneficiaries.
3. **Disseminate Programme's results**. Experiences of direct support packages to subsidised public rental housing beneficiaries and pilot projects' implementation will be analysed to identify relevant best practices. SIRP will publish and present the outcomes of this exercise in a national conference.