

Project Team Cash, SDC Humanitarian Aid
www.sdc-cashprojects.ch / e-mail: cash.program@deza.admin.ch
Fact sheets on Cash Transfer Projects

Cash for Shelter Serbia I

Central Serbia, FR Yugoslavia



Implementation period: November 1999 – April 2000

Credit Proposal: 7F-00339.03
Budget: CHF 3.652 mio.

Personnel:
Karl-Friedrich Glombitza
Armin Ullmann
Kurt Reiniger
Helmut Scheuer
Egon Rauch

Situation

After the NATO bombardment in summer 1999 about 220,000 Serbs left their homes in Kosovo and fled to neighboring municipalities in central and southern Serbia. About 80% of the IDPs were living in private accommodation with host families

Aim of the project

The cash for shelter project wanted to alleviate the critical economic situation of host families (HF) during the winter 1999/2000 with cash support and to create an incentive to host IDPs in private accommodation in order to reduce the pressure on collective centers.

Provided assistance

The Cash for Shelter project provided a 1-fold cash contribution to 11,094 host families in 15 municipalities for a period of up to 6 months. Depending on the time when they applied for the project the HF received between 120 and 360 DM (60 DM per month).

Lessons learnt

For the first time it was proved that it was possible to implement a cash project of such size successfully. Small projects helped to increase the acceptance of the project with local population and authorities.

Strengths

- Short preparation and implementation period.
- High acceptance among local authorities and beneficiaries.
- For more than 50,000 IDPs the accommodation during the winter period was secured.

- Good cooperation with Komercijalna Banka.



Implementation issues

Assessment, Project Start-up

It took place in September 1999 with the following tasks:

- Analysis of HF (needs) and IDPs.
- Identification of local partners.
- Development of a project proposal.

Registration

After public announcement HF were pre-registered in the communes.

Based on the number of pre-registered HF, CfSh staff did the actual registration in the communes.

Criteria for registration: HF had to be inhabitant of respective municipality and to accommodate two or more people in his premises.

Verification

In total 545 HF (or 5%, selected at random from the database) were visited and verified.

Announcement

The project was introduced to the Ministry of Refugees, the Yugoslav Red Cross and UNHCR as well as to the local governments.

Detailed information on eligibility and the list of beneficiaries were communicated through local media (TV, radio, printing press) and notices in local administrative offices.

Additionally, beneficiaries were informed about payment dates by individual letters.

Complaints

For those HF who missed the registration a complaint period was established.

Decisions on eligibility were made by a local project committee.

Payments

Payments were made by the Komercijalna Banka.

The Bank asked for a very low bank fee (1%) and used the cooperation as promotion.

The cooperation was excellent in terms of reliability of payment procedures and security during transactions.

Monitoring

Weekly updated tables and charts were used internally as monitoring instrument.

A post payment monitoring of the use of the contribution and its influence on movements of IDPs was done.

It showed that more than 80% of HF shared the contribution with IDPs in one way or the other.

The monitoring confirmed the appropriateness of intervention.

Supporting measures

About 10% of the amount paid to HF was earmarked in each municipality for the so-called 'Small Projects'.

The Small Projects were implemented in order to receive and acknowledge the support given by the local hosting community.

In total 56 small projects in the domain of education, health care, social welfare and culture were implemented successfully.

Documentation Infrastructure

The team consisted of 1 expat (PM) and 6 local employees (translator, database manager, operators, verification personnel etc.). Additionally, so-called part-timers were hired when there was a need.

Two cars were used by the local assistants.

An intranet was established with 7 working stations (incl. 1 expat laptop).

The office was provided by the municipality of Kraljevo.

Security measures

No travel security measures were necessary.

Data security measures were established (e.g. back up procedures).

Partners

The project was implemented in close co-operation with the respective municipalities and the local trustees for refugees and displaced persons.

On a local level the CfSh project was implemented alongside the SDC/UNHCR Network HLO.