



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 II

Central Serbia, FR Yugoslavia



Implementation period: October 2000 – April 2001

Credit Proposal: 7F-01125.01/02

Budget: CHF 4.61 mio.

Personnel:
Karl-Friedrich Glombitza
Armin Ullmann
Pius Rohner
Helmut Scheuer

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 2000/2001 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 3-fold cash contribution to 11,088 host families in 21 municipalities for a period of up to 7 months. 92% of HF received the full assistance of 420 DM (60 DM per month).

Lessons learnt

It was proved again 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

No specific assessment needed as the project proposal based on the results and experiences of CfSh Serbia I.

Registration

After public announcement HF were registered in the communes.

All information was entered into an electronic database.

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

Verification

After registration the data from the CfSh database were compared with the UNHCR database.

The so-called doubtful cases were listed and dealt with in a four step verification process individually.

In total 859 HF (or 8.2%) 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 complaints period of 15 days was established.

The complaints of HF were received in the local community office.

Payments

Payments were made by the Komercijalna Banka.

The Bank asked for very low bank fees (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.

An impact study by an independent institute was conducted in order to verify direct results and indirect effects of the CfSh project Serbia.

The efficiency of CfSh project realization reached almost 90% and was seen by beneficiaries and partners as very successful.

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 61 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.