



Comité catholique contre la faim et pour le développement
4, rue Jean Lantier-75001 PARIS

Pr. No: **429 000 069/2007**

Title of the project:

Support to the setting up of refugees and displaced associations

Recipient organization:

NGOs Forum- Kraljevo is an association of four non-government organisations - *Regional Centre of Civic Action LINGUA, Kraljevo Centre for Human Rights, Centre for Development of Non-profit sector in Central Serbia (CDNPSCS)* and NGO *Imagine Serbia*. These NGOs are non-political, non-profitable organizations intended for promotion of human rights, struggling for democratization of the society, spreading the idea of civic society, health promotion, education of the young in domain of culture, informing, humanitarian activities, ecology... Lingua NGO was established in 1997 during citizen's protests against the regime of Milosevic. With *Belgrade Centre for Human Rights – Kraljevo office*, we emerged as an organisation through a number of activities aimed at sensitizing local population on issues of democracy and tolerance during the height of Milosevic's regime. At the very outbreak of the Kosovo displacement crisis in June 1999, we assumed responsibilities in emergency assistance to the massive number of IDPs moving towards north. Information and database relating to internally displaced persons (IDPs) provided by Forum prove to have been essential professional background for most of international agencies and NGOs involved in humanitarian assistance in Serbia. Since November 1999 owing to their large scope of activities, Forum NGOs has been the implementing partner to *Norwegian Peoples' Aid* in realising all the projects

aimed to humanitarian, developing and psycho-social assistance for the IDPs and the refugees settled at the territory of Kraljevo region.

Since January 2001, soon after the arrival of internal displaced persons (IDPs) from Kosovo in Kraljevo, CCFD started to support Forum NGOs.

Since May 2001, Forum has been the implementing partner of the *Centre for Development of Non-Profit Sector (CRNPS)* from Belgrade in opening an Office of *Regional Centre for Development of Non-Profit Sector of Central Serbia (CDNPSCS)* in Kraljevo.

Forum NGOs is now active through a wide range of social activities and civil actions aimed to solving Central Serbia community problems of self-management capacities building, social integration of IDPs and refugees, and multicultural interaction. Most of the activities take place at *LINGUA Centre* located in Kraljevo. The Centre has become a recognizable place for all socially deprived population categories as a spot where solidarity and social support are made use of. We achieve our tasks at two locations in Kraljevo. One is intended for administration (offices), and the other comprises the *LINGUA Centre* where most of the activities take place, such as Micro Crediting Programme; Volunteering Centre; Anticorruption Centre, Youth programs Imagine Serbia and Initiative, Sense and Consciousness (ISAC), Medical/Psychological Advisory; Women's Workshop (training programme for IDPs/refugees women); Problem Solution of IDPs and Refugees in Co-operation with Local Authorities (Legal Advisory); Info Desk (information service) – all being intended for the most vulnerable population. Additionally, we have realised several training seminars on Organisation Strategic Planning for local NGOs, as well for directors and managers of public enterprises and municipality services. We have also realised training seminars on Business Plan Writing aimed to private business development.

Presently, there are 14 Forum activists (students, economists, engineers, lawyers, agronomists, teachers, medical doctors, psychologists, etc.) at the Centre engaged in projects realisation. Besides, we have over 30 members of various professions and 54 volunteers. We favours teamwork organised in accordance with particular projects/problems being worked on. In the democratization and transition process, we make efforts to help those citizens who certainly were being impoverished in the processes mentioned. Having identified and addressed the most current problems of the society, such as high unemployment rates, poverty, slowly integration and socialisation of IDPs and refugees, revitalization of villages, we try to support both citizens and local authorities to solve the key problems with economic self-strengthening projects, micro credits, education of citizens, NGOa activists and employed in system institutions. We are sure this is an adequate way of creating the preconditions for initiation and development of civic society as the first step in organising a modern state.

Problem description:

The Municipality of Kraljevo, covers the territory of 1530 sq. km. is the largest in the Republic of Serbia. By its position, Kraljevo objectively is an important crossroads, commercial and administrative centre of Raska Region. In this municipality, inhabited by 123,500 people (63,000 in the urban town area), the overall situation is extremely difficult, due to economic collapse, which is the consequence of the fatal policy of the former (Milosevic) regime that resulted in a very low living standard of citizens. There are currently 19,000 unemployed persons, making 43% of work-capable population.

Such economic situation was further aggravated by a new wave of IDPs from Kosovo who came in June 1999. At that time, most of them wanted to go to Belgrade, but, at the order of the then authorities, the police prevented their going to the north and kept them at the territory of Kraljevo municipality. The authorities claimed they had been the winners at Kosovo and that there were no IDPs in Serbia.

According to UNHCR FO Kraljevo data there are officially 23,500 IDPs and refugees at the territory of the Kraljevo municipality (unofficial number is about 25,000). The figure comprises 2,400 refugees from Bosnia and Croatia (about 450 are settled in 6 collective

centres) and 21,000 displaced persons from Kosovo, who started arriving in the middle of June 1999, which makes about 25% of the entire municipality's population and the highest percentage in Serbia. Of 21,000 displaced persons from Kosovo, 20,000 are accommodated privately (in rented apartments, with relatives, etc.). Over 800 (300 children) are settled in 11 collective centres, situated in Kraljevo suburbs and the surrounding villages. From August 2001, from 12 collective centres, only the beneficiaries from the two (Maricic and Morava) are still getting a hot meal daily. Living conditions in the centres are extremely difficult due to the lack of toilettes, water, heating, beds, mattresses, blankets, winter clothing, personal hygiene items, medicines and proper nutrition. The rooms are overcrowded, with both adults and children sharing beds, and people are exposed to diseases due to extremely poor hygiene conditions. In Vitanovac centre, accommodating about 60 people, there is no running water. There are no bathing, washing or cooking facilities. Yet, the number of applications for collective centre accommodation has been increasing, indicating the exhaustion of private funds for rent and food. Frequent stressful situations, increased fears and uncertainty are the factors influencing the above stated population negatively. Unfortunately, previous experience in Kraljevo shows that all the stated problems have most frequently been hidden. Similarly situation is in neighbourhood municipalities in Central Serbia: Kragujevac (16000 IDPs), Krusevac (9000 IDPs), Vrnjacka Banja (4500 IDPs), Trstenik (4000 IDPs).

Beneficiaries:

Target group is IDPs and refugees in Kraljevo municipality, as well as from the Central Serbia region. Direct beneficiaries are activists of 3 new formed IDPs/ refugees NGOs with 45 members, as well as interested NGOs activists from Central Serbia, Kosovo, Bosnia (which we will animate to involve them in the project). Indirect beneficiaries will be all IDPs who will have financial support, assistance or service through direct beneficiaries.

Project's historic and context:

In December 2006 Forum NGOs, financially supported by Norwegian People's Aid SEE, founded and assisted two IDPs NGOs to register (NGO "Uzor" and "PiCom"), as well as one refugees NGO ("Krajisnik") consists of refugees from Bosnia and Croatia mostly accommodated in collective centres and private accommodation (small number). After the registration all those three associations received financial support from Lingua NGO (donor: Norwegian Peoples' Aid) for the realisation of three mini projects in time period January-May 2007. All three mini projects were successfully realised.

In the meantime, in July 2007, Forum NGOs in cooperation with mentioned IDPs/refugees NGOs asked financial support of local authorities, in order of economic strengthening IDPs/refugees. Local authorities did not accept to help these newly formed NGOs with sources for the budget.

Forum NGOs belief that will help the activists through its activities and financial assistance, as well as beneficiaries of newly formed IDPs/refugees NGOs, facilitate integration or socialisation in the region of Central Serbia, through economic strengthening of the activists and beneficiaries of newly formed IDPs and refugees NGOs.

Duration of the project: 12 months

Year of beginning: February 2008

Objectives:

Overall objective:

- Economic independence of IDPs and refugees through self-organising

Specific objective:

The specific objectives that the project should achieve.

1. Support to economic independence and intensified socialisation of IDPs and refugees
2. Education of activist IDPs/refugees NGOs from the field of economic strengthening
3. Shaping new programs of economic strengthening of IDPs i refugees;
4. Affirmation of voluntarism and getting involved in other people's problems;
5. The reduction of antagonism of locals towards IDPs and refugees;
6. Stimulating active participation of IDPs/refugees in civic initiatives (through education IDPs/refugees in solving existential problems)

Expected results (in 2007):

What changes and improvements the project will bring? (one result per specific objective).

1. Facilitated integration of IDPS and refugees through programs of economic strengthening of newly formed NGOs (program for making and selling various products, as well as services, micro crediting program, social cooperatives...)
2. Development of newly formed and existing IDPs/refugees NGOs regarding implementation of a new dimension in other words new approach to problem solving with support and public advocacy by Forum NGOs (writing project proposals, how to apply (application procedures) to other international donors and the realisation of new programs);
3. Education and monitoring of engagement of IDPS/refuges NGOs activists will result with data base, and "bank of ideas" for the new programs which IDPS and refugees NGOs will implement;
4. Mutual help IDPs/refugees in solving existential problems;
5. Involvement of engaged volunteers (IDPs and refugees) to assist socially most deprived categories of local population will reduce antagonism of locals towards IDPs and refugees, with the assistance of media who will promote the whole project.
6. Founding and strengthening new IDPs/refugees associations (founding, registration and functioning of new IDPs/refugees NGOs in Central Serbia)